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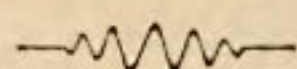
Scott

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TALES OF A GRANDFATHER

BY

WALTER SCOTT.



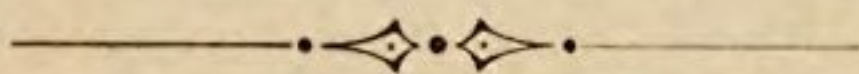
Zum Schul- und Privatgebrauch

herausgegeben von

Joh. Bauer und Dr. Th. Link.

Text mit Karte.

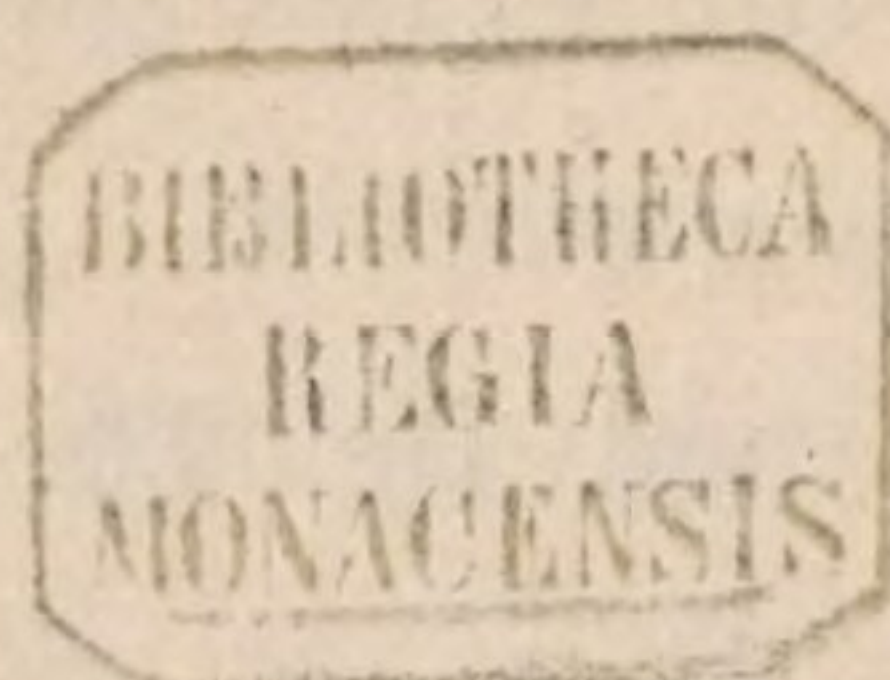
Questionnaire und Wörterverzeichnis separat.



München, 1890.

J. Lindauer'sche Buchhandlung (Schöpping).

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Walter Scotts Leben und Werke.

Walter Scott wurde am 15. August 1771 zu Edinburg als der Sohn eines Advokaten geboren. Die ersten Jahre seiner Kindheit verlebte der schwächliche Knabe auf dem Landsitze seines Grossvaters in der Nähe von Kelso. Später besuchte er die Schulen seiner Vaterstadt. Er galt für einen äusserst mittelmässigen Schüler, und nichts verriet seine spätere Grösse. Nach Beendigung seiner Studien liess er sich im Alter von 21 Jahren als Anwalt in Edinburg nieder. Seine nachmalige Stellung als Sheriff von Selkirkshire und (seit 1806) als Kanzleidirektor an dem Edinburger Gerichtshof bot ihm Zeit und Gelegenheit, neben seiner amtlichen Thätigkeit ungestört seinen literarischen Neigungen zu leben.

Scott begann seine dichterische Laufbahn mit Übersetzungen aus dem Deutschen (Bürgers „Lenore“, Göthes „Erlkönig“, „Götz von Berlichingen“ etc.). Im Jahre 1802 veröffentlichte er unter dem Titel „*Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*“, eine mit grossem Beifall aufgenommene Blumenlese altschottischer Balladen, die er auf seinen Wanderungen durch die wildromantischen Grenzländer Westschottlands aus dem Munde der

II

Bewohner gesammelt hatte. Vom Jahre 1805—14 trat er mit einer Reihe eigener Dichtungen patriotisch-romantischen Inhalts hervor, die einen ganz neuen Ton anschlugen und durch ihre meisterhaften Schilderungen des schottischen Hochlands und seiner Sitten beim Publikum aussergewöhnlichen Anklang fanden. Als die vollendetste dieser epischen Dichtungen gilt "*The Lady of the Lake*" (1810). Die nun folgenden Dichtungen blieben in ihrem Werte weit hinter den früheren zurück und wussten die Gunst der öffentlichen Meinung um so weniger zu gewinnen, als diese sich bereits dem neu aufgehenden Sterne des Byron'schen Genius zuzuwenden begann.

Scott kehrte sich nunmehr von der Dichtkunst ab und wandte sich ganz dem Romane zu. Die Triumphe, die er auf diesem Gebiete feierte, zeigten, dass der schottische Balladendichter den Höhepunkt seines Ruhmes noch nicht erreicht und erst mit dem historischen Roman das eigentliche Feld seiner Thätigkeit betreten hatte.

Im J. 1814 erschien — ohne Angabe des Verfassers — der erste dieser Romane unter dem Titel "*Waverley*". Die ausserordentlich günstige Aufnahme dieses Werkes veranlasste Scott, eine Reihe ähnlicher Erzählungen folgen zu lassen, die gleichzeitig seinen Weltruf und seinen Reichtum begründeten. Letzterer setzte ihn in stand, sich einen reizenden Landsitz — Abbotsford am Tweed — zu gründen, woselbst er mit fürstlicher Pracht glücklich und zufrieden lebte.

Infolge einer unglücklichen Spekulation verlor der Dichter im J. 1826 nicht nur sein ganzes Vermögen, sondern stürzte sich auch noch in eine Schuldenlast

von nahezu drei Millionen Mark. Um seine Gläubiger zu befriedigen, arbeitete Scott, obgleich schon vorgerückt an Jahren, mit verdoppelten Anstrengungen. Der unerschöpflichen Fruchtbarkeit seines Geistes gelang es, seinen bereits veröffentlichten Werken in rascher Aufeinanderfolge eine Reihe von Romanen, Abhandlungen, Briefen, Werken geschichtlichen und literarischen Inhalts etc. hinzuzufügen und mit dem Erlöse seine Schulden nahezu ganz abzutragen. So hatte der edle Mann sein Ziel erreicht, aber er hatte es erreicht um den Preis seiner Körper- und Geisteskräfte. Im Jahre 1830 war seine Gesundheit bereits derart geschwächt, dass er sich gezwungen sah, seiner geistigen Thätigkeit Einhalt zu thun und eine Erholungsreise nach dem Süden zu unternehmen. Aber auch der milde Himmel Italiens war nicht im stande, ihm seine gebrochene Gesundheit wiederzugeben. In sein Heimatland zurückgekehrt, starb er auf seinem Landsitz Abbotsford am 21. April 1832.

Die grosse literarische Bedeutung Scotts liegt vornehmlich auf dem Gebiete des historischen Romans, als dessen Schöpfer und unerreichter Meister er sich einen Weltruf gegründet.

Unter seinen geschichtlichen Arbeiten verdienen vor allem seine "*Tales of a Grandfather*" rühmende Erwähnung. Dieselben erschienen in der Zeit von 1827—1829 in drei Serien*) und enthalten eine Geschichte Schottlands für die Jugend.

*) Die vorliegende Ausgabe bietet eine Auswahl aus der I. Serie, die bis zur Vereinigung Englands und Schottlands (1613) reicht.

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Die *Tales* sind das Werk der Mussestunden des grossen Meisters und waren anfänglich dazu bestimmt, seinen Enkel Hugh John Lockhart in die Geschichte seines Heimatlandes einzuführen. Da der reich begabte und viel versprechende Knabe im zarten Alter von 11 Jahren vor seinem Grossvater starb, so entschloss sich letzterer, diese Erzählungen, die sich beim Unterrichte seines Enkels als so fruchtbringend erwiesen hatten, der Öffentlichkeit zu übergeben, in der Hoffnung, wie er selbst in der Vorrede sagt, "that they may be a source of instruction for others."

In der That dürften sich die *Tales* durch ihren anregenden Inhalt, sowie durch ihre anspruchslose, einfache und klare Darstellung mehr denn irgend eine Lektüre für jugendliche Leserkreise eignen.

TALES OF A GRANDFATHER.

Chapter I.

How Scotland and England came to be separate Kingdoms.

England is the southern, and Scotland is the northern part of the celebrated island called Great Britain.¹ England is greatly larger² than Scotland, and the land is much richer, and produces better crops. There are also a great many more men² in England, and both the gentlemen and the country people are more wealthy, and have better food and clothing there than in Scotland. The towns,³ also, are much more numerous, and more populous.

Scotland, on the contrary, is full of hills, and huge moors and wildernesses, which bear no corn, and afford but little food for flocks of sheep or herds of cattle. But the level ground that lies along the great rivers is more fertile, and produces good crops.

¹ Grossbritannien, so genannt im Gegensatz zu Kleinbritannien (Bretagne).

² England: 151 000 □km mit ca. 28 Mill. Einwohnern.
Schottland: 79 496 „ „ „ 4 „ „

³ England zählt ca. 20 Städte mit einer Bevölkerungszahl von über 100 000 Einwohner, während Schottland deren nur drei zählt.

The natives of Scotland are accustomed to live more hardily in general than those of England. The cities and towns are fewer, smaller, and less full of inhabitants than in England. But as Scotland possesses great quarries of stone, the houses are commonly built of that material, which is more lasting, and has a grander effect to the eye than the bricks used in England.

Now, as these two nations live in the different ends of the same island, and are separated by large and stormy seas from all other parts of the world, it seems natural that they should have been friendly to each other, and that they should have lived as one people under the same government. Accordingly about two hundred years ago, the King of Scotland becoming ¹ King of England ², the two nations have ever since then been joined in one great kingdom, which is called Great Britain.

But, before this happy union of England and Scotland, there were many long, cruel, and bloody wars between the two nations; and, far from* helping or assisting each other, as became good neighbours and friends, they did each other all the harm and injury that they possibly could, by invading each other's territories, killing their subjects, burning their towns, and taking their wives and children prisoners. This lasted for many hundred years; and I am about to tell you the reason why the land was so divided.

A long time since, eighteen hundred years ago and more, there was a brave and warlike people, called the Romans, who undertook to conquer the

¹ = when the king of Scotland became etc.

² Nach dem Tode der Königin Elisabeth im Jahre 1603 vereinigte ihr Nachfolger Jakob VI., König von Schottland, (Sohn der Maria Stuart) als Jakob I. die englische Krone mit der schottischen.

* Die mit * bezeichneten Wörter werden dem Schüler zum Aufsuchen im Wörterverzeichnis besonders empfohlen.

whole world, and subdue all countries, so as to make¹ their own city of Rome the head of all the nations upon the face of the earth. And after conquering² far and near, at last they came to Britain³, and made a great war upon the inhabitants, called the British, or Britons, whom they found living there. The Romans, who were a very brave people, and well armed, beat the British, and took possession of almost all the flat part of the island, which is now called England, and also of a part of the south of Scotland. But they could not make their way into the high northern mountains of Scotland, where they could hardly get any thing to feed their soldiers, and where they met with much opposition from the inhabitants. The Romans, therefore, gave up all attempts to subdue this impenetrable country, and resolved to remain satisfied with that level ground, of which they had already possessed themselves.

Then the wild people of Scotland, whom the Romans had not been able to subdue, began to come down from their mountains, and make inroads upon that part of the country which had been conquered by the Romans.

These people of the northern parts of Scotland were not one nation, but divided in two, called the Scots and the Picts; they often fought against each other, but they always joined together against the Romans, and the Britons who had been subdued by them. At length, the Romans thought they would prevent these Picts and Scots from coming into the southern part of Britain, and laying it waste. For this purpose, they built a very long wall between the one side of the island and the other, so that none of the

¹ *so as to make* = so that they made.

² *after conquering* = after having conquered.

³ Gemeint sind die beiden Expeditionen Cäsars (im Jahre 55 und 54 v. Chr.) und die wiederholten Feldzüge Agricolas gegen Schottland (80 n. Chr.).

Scots or Picts should come into the country on the south side of the wall; and they made towers on the wall, and camps, with soldiers, from place to place; so that, at the least alarm, the soldiers might hasten to defend any part of the wall which was attacked. This first Roman wall¹ was built between the two great Friths of the Clyde² and the Forth, just where the island of Britain is at the narrowest, and some parts of it are to be seen* at this day.

This wall defended the Britons for a time, and the Scots and Picts were shut out from the fine rich land, and enclosed within their own mountains. But they were very much displeased with this, and assembled themselves in great numbers, and climbed over the wall, in spite of all that the Romans could do to oppose them. A man, named Grahame, is said* to have been the first soldier who got over; and the common people still call³ the remains of the wall Grahame's Dike.

Now the Romans, finding that this first wall could not keep out the Barbarians (for so they termed the Picts and the Scots), thought, they would give up a large portion of the country to them, and perhaps it might make them quiet. So they built a new wall⁴, and⁵ a much stronger one than the first, sixty miles⁶ farther back from the Picts and Scots. Yet the Barbarians made as many furious attacks to get over this second wall, as ever they had done to break through the former. But the Roman soldiers defended the second wall so well, that the Scots and Picts

¹ Dieser Wall wurde im Jahre 81 n. Chr. aufgeführt.

² Über die Lage der vorkommenden geographischen Namen siehe Karte!

³ Der Plural steht wegen des in "*people*" liegenden Kollektivbegriffes.

⁴ Es ist dies der Hadrianswall, erbaut im J. 120 n. Chr.

⁵ *and* = „und zwar“.

⁶ Die englische Meile = 1609 m, die deutsche geographische Meile = 7420 m.

could not break through it; though they often came round the end of the wall by sea, in boats made of ox hides, stretched upon hoops, landed on the other side, and did very much mischief. In the meantime, the poor Britons led a very unhappy life; for the Romans, when they subdued their country, having taken¹ away all their arms, they lost the habit of using them, or of defending themselves, and trusted entirely to the protection of their conquerors.

But at this time great quarrels, and confusion, and civil wars, took place at Rome. So the Roman Emperor² sent to the soldiers whom he had maintained in Britain, and ordered that they should immediately return to their own country, and leave the Britons to defend their wall as well as they could, against their unruly and warlike neighbours the Picts and Scots. The Roman soldiers were very sorry for the poor Britons, but they could do no more to help them than by repairing the wall of defence. They therefore built it all up, and made it as strong as if it were quite new. And then they took* to their ships, and left the island. (A. D.³ 446.)

After the departure of the Romans, the Britons were quite unable to protect the wall against the Barbarians; for, since their conquest by the Romans, they had become a weak and cowardly people. So the Picts and the Scots broke through the wall at several points, wasted and destroyed the country, and took away the boys and girls to be slaves, seized upon the sheep, and upon the cattle, and burnt the houses, and did the inhabitants every sort of mischief. Thus at last the Britons, finding themselves no longer able to resist these barbarous people, invited into Britain to their assistance a number of

¹ *the Romans having taken away etc.* = since the Romans had taken away etc.

² Valentinian III. (425—452).

³ A. D. = Anno Domini (in the year of our Lord).

men from the North of Germany, who were called Anglo-Saxons¹. Now, these were a very brave and warlike people, and they came in their ships from Germany, and landed in the south part of Britain, and helped the Britons to fight with the Scots and Picts [A. D. 449], and drove these nations again into the hills and fastnesses of their own country, to the north of the wall which the Romans built²; and they were never afterwards so troublesome to their neighbours.

But the Britons were not much the* better for the defeat of their northern enemies; for the Saxons, when they had come into Britain, and saw what a beautiful rich country it was, and that the people were³ not able to defend it, resolved to take the land to themselves, and to make the Britons their slaves and servants. The Britons were very unwilling to have* their country taken from them by the people† they had called in to help them, and so strove to oppose them; but the Saxons were stronger and more warlike than they, and defeated them so often, that they at last got possession of all the level and flat land in the south part of Britain. However, the bravest part of the Britons fled into a very hilly part of the country, which is called Wales⁴, and there they defended themselves against the Saxons for a great many years; and their descendants still speak the ancient British language, called Welsh. In the mean time, the Anglo-Saxons spread themselves throughout all the south part of Britain, and the name of the country was changed, and it was no

¹ Genauer: die Angeln, Sachsen und Jüten.

² *built* = had built.

³ Siehe pag. 4 Anm. 3.

⁴ Hier haben sich die Urbriten mit ihrer kymrischen Sprache in einer Stärke von etwa 80 000 Köpfen bis auf den heutigen Tag erhalten.

† Das Zeichen † bedeutet die Auslassung eines Wortes, z. B. that, wich, who(m); that (dass); if (wenn); when (als).

longer called Britain, but England; which means the land of the Anglo-Saxons who had conquered it.

While the Saxons and Britons were thus fighting together, the Scots and the Picts, after they had been driven back behind the Roman wall, also quarrelled and fought between themselves; and at last, after a great many battles, the Scots got completely the better* of the Picts. The common people say¹ that the Scots destroyed them entirely; but I think it is not likely that they could kill such great numbers of people. Yet it is certain† they must have slain many, and driven others out of the country, and made the rest their servants and slaves; at least the Picts were never heard² of in history after these great defeats, and the Scots gave their own name to the north part of Britain, as the Angles, or Anglo-Saxons, did to the south part; and so came the name of Scotland, the land of the Scots; and England, the land of the English. The two kingdoms were divided from each other, on the east by the river Tweed; then, as you proceed westward, by a great range of hills and wildernesses, and at length by a branch of the sea called the Frith of Solway. The division is not very far from the old Roman wall. The wall itself has been long suffered* to go to ruins; but, as I have already said, there are some parts of it still standing, and it is curious to see how it runs as straight as an arrow over high hills, and through great bogs and morasses.

You see, therefore, that Britain was divided between three different nations, who were enemies to each other. — There was England, which was the richest and best part of the island, and which was inhabited by the English. Then there was Scotland, full of hills and great lakes, and difficult and dangerous

¹ Siehe pag. 4 Anno 3.

² Aktivisch mit "man" wiederzugeben.

precipices, wild heaths, and great morasses. This country was inhabited by the Scots, or Scottish men. And there was Wales, also a very wild and mountainous country, whither the remains of the ancient Britons had fled, to obtain safety from the Saxons.

The Welsh defended their country for a long time, and lived under their own government and laws; yet the English got possession of it at last¹. But they were not able to become masters of Scotland, though they tried it frequently. The two countries were under different kings, who fought together very often and very desperately; and thus you see the reason why England and Scotland, though making parts of the same island, were for a long time great enemies to each other.

Chapter II.

The Story of Macbeth.

[A. D. 1033—1056.]

Soon after² the Scots and Picts had become one people, as I told you before, there was a King of Scotland called Duncan³, a very good old man. He had two sons; one was called Malcolm⁴, and the other Donaldbane.

At this time Scotland, and indeed France and England, and all the other countries of Europe, were much harassed by the Danes. These were a very

¹ Edward I. unterwarf 1276—78 Wales. Seit dieser Zeit führt der englische Thronfolger den Titel „Prinz von Wales“.

² *after* ist hier Konjunktion.

³ Siehe pag. 20 Anm. 2.

⁴ Siehe pag. 20 Anm. 1.

fierce, warlike people, who sailed from one place to another, and landed their armies on the coast, burning and destroying every thing wherever they came. They were heathens, and did not believe in the Bible, but thought of nothing but battle and slaughter, and making plunder. When they came to countries where the inhabitants were cowardly, they took possession of the land, as the Saxons took possession of Britain. At other times, they landed with their soldiers, took what spoil they could find, burned the houses, and then got on board, hoisted sails, and away again. They did so much mischief, that people put up prayers to God in the churches, to deliver them from the rage of the Danes.

Now, it happened in King Duncan's time, that a great fleet of these Danes¹ came to Scotland and landed their men in Fife, and threatened to take possession of that province. So a numerous Scottish army was levied to go to fight against them. The King was too old to command his army, and his sons were too young. He therefore sent out one of his near relations, who was called Macbeth; he was son of Finel, who was Thane, as it was called, of Glamis. The governors of provinces were at that time, in Scotland, called Thanes; they were afterwards termed Earls².

This Macbeth, who was a brave soldier, put himself at the head of the Scottish army, and marched against the Danes. And he carried with him a relation of his own*, called Banquo, who was Thane of Lochaber, and was also a very brave man. So there was a great battle fought between the Danes and the Scots; and Macbeth and Banquo, the Scottish generals, defeated the Danes, and drove them back to their

¹ Sven, König von Dänemark, begann die Eroberung von Norwegen und Grossbritannien.

² Vergleiche den Schluss des Kapitels!

ships, leaving a great many of their soldiers both killed and wounded. Then Macbeth and his army marched back to a town in the north of Scotland, called Forres, rejoicing on account of their victory.

Now there lived at this time three old women in the town of Forres, whom people looked upon as witches, and supposed they could tell what was to come* to pass. Nobody would believe such folly now-a-days, except low and ignorant creatures, such as those who consult gipsies in order to have* their fortunes told; but in those early times the people were¹ much more ignorant, and even great men, like Macbeth, believed that such persons as these witches of Forres could tell what was to come to pass afterwards, and listened to the nonsense† they told them, as if the old women had really been prophetesses. The old women saw that they were respected and feared, so that they were tempted to impose upon people, by pretending to tell what was to happen to them; and they got presents for doing so.

So the three old women went and stood by the wayside, in a great moor or heath near Forres², and waited till Macbeth came up. And then, stepping before him as he was marching at the head of his soldiers, the first woman said, "All hail, Macbeth — hail to thee, Thane of Glamis." The second said, "All hail, Macbeth — hail to thee, Thane of Cawdor." Then the third, wishing to pay him a higher compliment than the other two, said, "All hail, Macbeth, that shalt be King of Scotland." Macbeth was very much surprised to hear them give him these titles; and while he was wondering what they could mean, Banquo stepped forward, and asked them whether they had nothing to tell about him as well as about

¹ Siehe pag 4 Anm. 3.

² Zeitgenössische Chronisten berichten, dass die drei Hexen Macbeth im Traume erschienen seien.

Macbeth. And they said that he should not be so great as Macbeth, but that, though he himself should never be a king, yet his children should succeed to the throne of Scotland¹, and be kings for a great number of years.

Before Macbeth was recovered from his surprise, there came a messenger to tell him that his father was dead, so that he was become Thane of Glamis by inheritance. And there came a second messenger, from the King, to thank Macbeth for the great victory over the Danes, and tell him that the Thane of Cawdor had rebelled against the King, and that the King had taken his office from him, and had sent to make Macbeth Thane of Cawdor as well as of Glamis. Thus the two first old women seemed to be right in giving him those two titles. I dare say they knew something of the death of Macbeth's father, and that the government of Cawdor was intended for Macbeth, though he had not heard of it.

However, Macbeth, seeing a part of their words come* to be true, began to think how he was to bring the rest to pass*, and make himself King, as well as Thane of Glamis and Cawdor. Now Macbeth had a wife, who was a very ambitious, wicked woman, and when she found out that her husband thought of raising himself up to be King of Scotland, she encouraged him in his wicked purpose, by all the means in her power², and persuaded him that the only way to get possession of the crown was to kill the good old King, Duncan. Macbeth was very unwilling to commit so great a crime, for he knew

¹ Während die vorliegende Sage das Geschlecht der Stuarts von Banquo abstammen lässt, führt die Geschichte dasselbe auf einen Zweig der englisch-normannischen Familie Fitz-Alan zurück, der sich in Schottland niederliess und schon im 12. Jahrhundert die erbliche Würde eines Reichshofmeisters („steward“, daher der Name Stuart) erhielt.

² all the means which she had in her power.

what a good sovereign Duncan had been; and he recollected that he was his relation, and had been always very kind to him, and had intrusted him with the command of his army, and had bestowed on him the government or Thanedom of Cawdor. But his wife continued telling him what a foolish, cowardly thing it was of him not to take the opportunity of making himself King, when it was in his power to gain what the witches promised¹ him. So the wicked advice of his wife, and the prophecy of these wretched old women, at last brought Macbeth to think of murdering his King and his friend. The way in which he accomplished his crime, made it still more abominable.

Macbeth invited Duncan to come to visit him, at a great castle near Inverness; and the good King, who had no suspicions of his kinsman, accepted the invitation very willingly. Macbeth and his lady received the King and all his retinue with much appearance of joy, and made a great feast, as a subject would do to make his King welcome. About the middle of the night, the King desired to go to his apartment, and Macbeth conducted him to a fine room, which had been prepared for him. Now, it was the custom, in those barbarous times, that wherever the King slept, two armed men slept in the same chamber, in order to defend his person in case† he should be attacked by any one during the night. But the wicked Lady Macbeth had made* these two watchmen drink a great deal of wine, and had besides put some drugs into the liquor; so that when they went to the King's apartment they both fell asleep, and slept so soundly, that nothing could awaken them.

Then the cruel Macbeth came into King Duncan's bedroom about two in the morning. It was a terrible stormy night; but the noise of the wind and

¹ *promised* = had promised; vgl. pag 6 Anm. 2.

of the thunder did not awaken the King, for he was old, and weary with his journey; neither could it awaken the two sentinels, who were stupified with the liquor and the drugs they had swallowed. They all slept soundly. So Macbeth having come into the room, and stepped gently over the floor, he took the two dirks which belonged to the sentinels, and stabbed poor old King Duncan to the heart, and that¹ so effectually, that he died without giving even a groan. Then Macbeth put the bloody daggers into the hands of the sentinels, and daubed their faces over with blood, that it might appear as if they had committed the murder. Macbeth was, however, greatly frightened at what* he had done, but his wife made* him wash his hands and go to bed.

Early in the morning, the nobles and gentlemen who attended* on the King assembled in the great hall of the castle, and there they began to talk about what a dreadful storm it had been the night before. But Macbeth could scarcely understand what they said, for he was thinking on something much worse and more frightful than the storm, and was wondering what would be said when they heard of the murder. They waited for some time, but finding the King did not come from his apartment, one of the noblemen went to see whether he was well or not. But when he came into the room, he found poor King Duncan lying stiff, and cold, and bloody, and the two sentinels both fast asleep, with their dirks or daggers covered with blood. As soon as the Scottish nobles saw this terrible sight, they were greatly astonished and enraged; and Macbeth made believe as if he were more enraged than any of them, and, drawing his sword, before any one could prevent him, he killed the two attendants of the King who slept in the bedchamber, pretending to think† they had been guilty of murdering King Duncan.

¹ *and that* = und zwar.

When Malcolm and Donaldbane, the two sons of the good King, saw their father slain in this strange manner within Macbeth's castle, they became afraid that they might be put to death likewise, and fled away out of Scotland; for, notwithstanding all the excuses which he could make, they still believed that Macbeth had killed their father. Donaldbane fled into some distant islands, but Malcolm, the eldest son of Duncan, went to the Court of England, where he begged for assistance from the English King¹, to place him on the throne of Scotland, as his father's successor.

In the mean time, Macbeth took possession of the kingdom of Scotland, and thus all his wicked wishes seemed to be fulfilled. But he was not happy. He began to reflect how wicked he had been in killing his friend and benefactor, and how some other person, as ambitious as he was himself, might do the same thing to him. He remembered, too, that the old women had said, that the children of Banquo should succeed to the throne after his death, and therefore he concluded that Banquo might be tempted to conspire against him, as he had himself done against King Duncan. The wicked always think other people are as bad as themselves. In order to prevent this supposed danger, Macbeth hired ruffians to watch in a wood, where Banquo and his son Fleance sometimes used to walk in the evening, with instructions to attack them, and kill both father and son. The villains did as they were ordered by Macbeth; but while they were killing Banquo, the boy Fleance made his escape from their wicked hands, and fled from Scotland into Wales. And it is said, that, long afterwards, his children came to possess the Scottish crown.²

¹ Edward der Bekenner; siehe pag. 19 Anm. 1.

² Siehe pag. 11 Anm. 1.

Macbeth was not the* more happy that he had slain his brave friend and cousin, Banquo. He knew that men began to suspect the wicked deeds which he had done, and he was constantly afraid that some one would put him to death as he had done his old sovereign, or that Malcolm would obtain assistance from the King of England, and come to make war against him, and take from him the Scottish kingdom. So, in this great perplexity of mind, he thought he would go to the old women, whose words had first put into his mind the desire of becoming a king. It is to be supposed* that he offered them presents, and that they were cunning enough to study how to give him some answer, which should make him continue in the belief that they could prophesy what was to happen in future times. So they answered to him that he should not be conquered, or lose the crown of Scotland, until a great forest, called Birnam Wood, should come to attack a strong castle situated on a high hill called Dunsinane, in which castle Macbeth commonly resided. Now, the hill of Dunsinane is upon the one side of a great valley¹, and the forest of Birnam is upon the other. There is twelve miles' distance betwixt them; and besides that, Macbeth thought† it was impossible that the trees could ever come to the assault of the castle. He therefore resolved to fortify his castle on the Hill of Dunsinane very strongly, as being a place² in which he would always be sure to be safe. For this purpose he caused* all his great nobility and Thanes to send in stones, and wood, and other things wanted in building, and to drag them with oxen up to the top of the steep hill where he was building the castle.

Now, among other nobles who were obliged to send oxen, and horses, and materials to this laborious

¹ Das Thal des Tay.

² *as being a place* = as (it was) a place.

work, was one called Macduff, the Thane of Fife. Macbeth was afraid of this Thane, for he was very powerful, and was accounted both brave and wise; and Macbeth thought[†] he would most probably join with Prince Malcolm, if ever he should come from England with an army. The King, therefore, had a private hatred against the Thane of Fife, which he kept concealed from all men, until he should have some opportunity of putting him to death, as he had done Duncan and Banquo. Macduff, on his part, kept upon his guard, and went to the King's court as seldom as he could, thinking himself never safe unless while¹ in his own castle of Kennoway which is on the coast of Fife, near to the mouth of the Frith of Forth.

It happened, however, that the King had summoned several of his nobles, and Macduff, the Thane of Fife, amongst others, to attend him at his new castle of Dunsinane; and they were all obliged to come—none dared stay behind. Now, the King was* to give the nobles a great entertainment, and preparations were made for it. In the mean time, Macbeth rode out with a few attendants, to see the oxen drag the wood and the stones up the hill, for enlarging and strengthening the castle. So they saw most of the oxen trudging up the hill with great difficulty (for the ascent is very steep), and the burdens were heavy, and the weather was extremely hot. At length Macbeth saw a pair of oxen so tired that they could go no farther up the hill, but fell down under their load. Then the King was very angry, and demanded to know who it was among his Thanes that had sent oxen so weak and so unfit for labour, when he had so much work for them to do. Some one replied, that the oxen belonged to Macduff, the Thane of Fife. "Then," said the King,

¹ = while he was (while being) etc.

in great anger, "since the Thane of Fife sends such worthless cattle as these¹ to do my labour, I will put his own neck into the yoke, and make him drag the burdens himself."

There was a friend of Macduff who heard these angry expressions of the King, and hastened to communicate them to the Thane of Fife, who was walking in the hall of the King's castle while dinner was preparing². The instant that³ Macduff heard what the King had said, he knew[†] he had no time to lose in making his escape; for whenever Macbeth threatened to do mischief to any one, he was sure to keep his word.

So Macduff snatched up from the table a loaf of bread, called for his horses and his servants, and was galloping back to his own province of Fife, before Macbeth and the rest of the nobility were returned to the castle. The first question which the King asked was, what had become of Macduff? and being informed that he had fled from Dunsinane, he ordered* a body of his guards to attend him, and mounted on horseback himself to pursue the Thane, with the purpose of putting him to death.

Macduff, in the mean time, fled as fast as horses' feet could carry him; but he was so ill provided with money for his expenses, that, when he came to the great ferry over the river Tay, he had nothing to give to the boatmen who took him across, excepting the loaf of bread which he had taken from the King's table. The place was called, for a long time afterwards, the Ferry of the Loaf.

When Macduff got into his province of Fife, which is on the other side of the Tay, he rode on faster than before towards his own castle of Kennoway,

¹ Vgl. pag. 4 Anm. 3.

² = while dinner was being prepared.

³ Vgl. frz. *à l'instant que* im Augenblicke, als (wo).

which, as I told you¹, stands close by the seaside; and when he reached it, the King and his guards were not far behind him. Macduff ordered* his wife to shut the gates of the castle, draw up the draw-bridge, and on no account to permit* the King or any of his soldiers to enter. In the mean time, he went to the small harbour belonging to the castle, and caused* a ship which was lying there to be fitted out for sea in all haste, and got on board himself, in order to escape from Macbeth.

In the mean time, Macbeth summoned the lady to surrender the castle, and to deliver up her husband. But Lady Macduff, who was a wise and a brave woman, made many excuses and delays, until she knew that her husband was safely on board* the ship, and had sailed from the harbour. Then she spoke boldly from the wall of the castle to the King, who was standing before the gate still demanding entrance.

“Do you see,” she said, “yon white sail upon the sea? Yonder goes Macduff to the Court of England. Yon will never see him again till he comes back with young Prince Malcolm, to pull you down from the throne, and to put you to death. You will never be able to put your yoke, as you threatened, on the Thane of Fife’s neck.”

Some say that Macbeth was so much incensed at this bold answer, that he and his guards attacked the castle and took it, killing the brave lady and all whom they found there. But others say that the King, seeing that the fortress of Kennoway was very strong, and that Macduff had escaped from him, and was embarked for England, departed back to Dunsinane without attempting to take the castle. The ruins are still to be seen*, and are called the Thane’s castle.

¹ Siehe pag. 16.

There reigned at that time in England a very good King, called Edward the Confessor¹. I told you that Prince Malcolm, the son of Duncan, was at his court, soliciting assistance to recover the Scottish throne. The arrival of Macduff greatly aided the success of his petition; for the English King knew that Macduff was a brave and wise man. As he assured Edward that the Scots were tired of the cruel Macbeth, and would join Prince Malcolm if he were* to return to his country at the head of an army, the King ordered a great warrior, called Siward, Earl of Northumberland, to enter Scotland with a large force, and assist Prince Malcolm in the recovery of his father's crown. [A. D. 1054.]

Then it happened just as Macduff had said; for the Scottish Thanes and nobles would not fight for Macbeth, but joined Prince Malcolm and Macduff against him; so that at length he shut himself up in his castle of Dunsinane, where he thought himself safe, according to the old women's prophecy, until Birnam Wood should come against him. He boasted of this to his followers, and encouraged them to make a valiant defence, assuring them of certain victory. At this time Malcolm and Macduff were come as far as Birnam Wood, and lay encamped there with their army. The next morning, when they were to march across the broad valley to attack the castle of Dunsinane, Macduff advised that every soldier should cut down a bough of a tree, and carry it in his hand, that the enemy might not be able to see how many men were coming against them.²

Now, the sentinel who stood on Macbeth's castle-wall, when he saw all these branches, which the

¹ Eduard der Bekenner, der jüngere Sohn Ethelreds II., der vorletzte angelsächsische König von England, regierte von 1042—1066. Seine Regierungszeit war eine Zeit des Friedens und der Gerechtigkeit. Er starb kinderlos.

² Vgl. pag. 4 Anm. 3.

soldiers of Prince Malcolm carried, ran to the King, and informed him that the wood of Birnam was moving towards the castle of Dunsinane. The King at first called him a liar, and threatened to put him to death; but when he looked from the walls himself, and saw the appearance of a forest approaching from Birnam, he knew[†] the hour of his destruction was come. His followers, too, began to be disheartened, and to fly from the castle, seeing[†] their master had lost all hopes.

Macbeth, however, recollected his own bravery, and sallied desperately out at the head of the few followers who remained faithful to him. He was killed, after a furious resistance, fighting hand to hand with Macduff, in the thick of the battle.

Prince Malcolm¹ mounted the throne of Scotland, and reigned long and prosperously. He rewarded Macduff by declaring that his descendants should lead the vanguard of the Scottish army in battle, and place the crown on the King's head at the ceremony of coronation. King Malcolm also created the thanes of Scotland earls, after the title of dignity adopted in the court of England.²

¹ Malcolm versuchte den Angelsachsen zur Zeit des Einfalls der Normannen zu Hilfe zu kommen, wurde aber besiegt und musste die Oberlehenshoheit Wilhelms des Eroberers anerkennen. Er fiel im Jahre 1093 im Kampfe gegen Wilhelm den Roten.

² Die vorausgehende Erzählung von Macbeth, die auch Shakespere seinem Trauerspiel („Macbeth“) zu grunde gelegt hat, gehört der Sage an. Der geschichtliche Macbeth lebte unter Duncan, der im Jahre 1034 zum König von Schottland erhoben wurde. Vom Dänenkönig Svenno geschlagen, musste Duncan flüchten, bis ihm sein Verwandter Macbeth zu Hilfe eilte und die Dänen vertrieb. Später machte Macbeth selbst Ansprüche auf die Krone, überfiel und tötete Duncan und bestieg den schottischen Thron im Jahre 1044. Er wurde wegen seiner Strenge 1054 gestürzt und 1056 bei Lumphanan getötet.

Chapter III.

The Feudal System, and the Norman Conquest.

The conduct of Edward the Confessor¹, King of England, in the story of Macbeth, was very generous and noble. He sent a large army and his General, Siward, to assist in dethroning the tyrant Macbeth, and placing Malcolm, the son of the murdered King Duncan, upon the throne; and we have seen how, with the assistance of Macduff, they fortunately succeeded*. But King Edward never thought of taking any part of Scotland to himself in the confusion occasioned by the invasion; for he was a good man, and was not ambitious or covetous of what* did not belong to him. It had been² well both for England and Scotland that there had been more such good and moderate kings, as it would have prevented many great quarrels, long wars, and terrible bloodshed.

But good King Edward the Confessor did not leave any children to succeed him on the throne. He was succeeded* by a King called Harold, who was the last monarch of the Saxon race that ever reigned in England. The Saxons, you recollect, had conquered the Britons, and now there came a new enemy to attack the Saxons. These were the Normans, a people who came from France, but were not originally Frenchmen. Their forefathers were a colony of those Northern pirates, whom we mentioned before as plundering all the sea-coasts which promised them any booty. They were frequently called Northmen or Normans, as they came from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and the other Northern regions. A large body of them landed on the north part of

¹ Siehe pag. 19 Anm. 1.

² = it would have been.

France, and compelled the king¹ of that country to yield up to them the possession of a large territory, or province, called Neustria, the name of which was changed to Normandy, when it became the property of these Northmen, or Normans. This province was governed by the Norman chief, who was called a duke, from a Latin² word signifying a general. He exercised all the powers of a king within his dominions of Normandy, but, in consideration* of his being possessed of a part of the territories of France, he acknowledged the king of that country for his sovereign, and became what was called his vassal.

This connexion of a king as *sovereign*, with his princes and great men as *vassals*, must be attended to and understood, in order that you may comprehend the history which follows. A great king, or sovereign prince, gave large provinces, or grants of land, to his dukes, earls, and noblemen; and each of these possessed nearly as much power, within his own district, as the king did in the rest of his dominions. But then the vassal, whether duke, earl, or lord, or whatever he was, was obliged to come with a certain number of men to assist the sovereign, when he was engaged in war; and in time of peace, he was bound to attend on his court when summoned, and do homage to him—that is, acknowledge that he was his master and liege lord. In like manner, the vassals of the crown, as they were called, divided the lands which the king had given them into estates, which they bestowed on knights and gentlemen, whom they thought fitted to follow them in war, and to attend them in peace; for they, too, held courts,

¹ Karl der Einfältige, König von Frankreich, musste im Jahre 911 dem furchtbaren normannischen Piratenhauptling Rollo Neustrien als erbliches Herzogtum überlassen, wofür letzterer sich zum Christentum bekehrte und des Königs Tochter Gisela heiratete.

² *Dux*, franz. duc Feldherr.

and administered justice, each in his own province. Then the knights and gentlemen, who had these estates from the great nobles, distributed the property among an inferior class of proprietors, some of whom cultivated the land themselves, and others by means of husbandmen and peasants, who were treated as a sort of slaves, being bought and sold like brute beasts, along with the farms which they laboured.

Thus, when a great king, like that of France or England, went to war, he summoned all his crown vassals to attend him, with the number of armed men corresponding to his Fief, as it was called; that is, the territory which had been granted to each of them. The prince, duke, or earl, in order to obey the summons, called upon all the gentlemen to whom he had given estates, to attend his standard with their followers in arms. The gentlemen, in their turn, called on the franklins, a lower order of gentry, and upon the peasants; and thus the whole force of the kingdom was assembled in one array. This system of holding lands for military service, that is, for fighting for the sovereign when called upon, was called the FEUDAL SYSTEM. It was general throughout all Europe for a great many* ages.

But as many of these great crown-vassals, as, for example, the Dukes of Normandy, became extremely powerful, they were in the custom of making peace and war at their own hand, without the knowledge or consent of the King of France, their sovereign. In the same manner, the vassals of those great dukes and princes frequently made war on each other, for war was the business of every one; while the poor bondsman, who cultivated the ground, was subjected to the greatest hardships, and plundered and ill-treated by whichever¹ side had the better*. The nobles and gentlemen fought on horseback, arrayed in armour

¹ by the side which etc.

of steel, richly ornamented with gold and silver, and were called knights or squires. They used long lances, with which they rode fiercely against each other, and heavy swords, or clubs or maces, to fight hand to hand, when the lance was broken. Inferior persons fought on foot, and were armed with bows and arrows, which, according to their form, were called long-bows, or cross-bows, and served to kill men at a distance, instead of guns and cannon, which were not then invented. The poor husbandmen were obliged to come to the field of battle with such arms as they had: and it was no uncommon thing to see a few of these knights and squires ride over and put to flight many hundreds of them; for the gentry were¹ clothed in complete armour, so that they could receive little hurt, and the poor peasants had scarce clothes sufficient to cover them.

It was not a very happy time this, when there was scarcely any law, but the strong took every thing from the weak at their pleasure; for, as almost all the inhabitants of the country were obliged to be soldiers, it naturally followed that they were engaged in continual fighting.

The great crown-vassals, in particular, made constant war upon one another, and sometimes upon the sovereign himself, though to do so was to incur the forfeiture of their fiefs, or the territories which he had bestowed upon them, and which he was enabled by law to recall when they became his enemies. But they took the opportunity, when they were tolerably certain that their prince would not have strength sufficient to punish them. In short, no one could maintain his right longer than he had the power of defending it; and this induced the more poor and helpless to throw themselves under the protection of the brave and powerful—acknowledge

¹ Vgl. pag. 4 Anm. 3.

themselves their vassals and subjects, and do homage to them, in order that they might obtain their safeguard and patronage.

While things were in this state, William, the Duke of Normandy¹, and the leader of that valiant people whose ancestors had conquered that province, began, upon the death of good King Edward the Confessor, to consider the time as favourable for an attempt to conquer the wealthy kingdom of England. He pretended[†] King Edward had named him his heir¹; but his surest reliance was upon a strong body of his brave Normans, to whom were joined many knights and squires from distant countries, who hoped, by assisting this Duke William in his proposed conquest, to obtain from him good English estates, under the regulations which I have described.

The Duke of Normandy landed [on the 28th of September, at Pevensey] in Sussex, in the year one thousand and sixty-six, after the birth of our blessed Saviour. He had an army of sixty thousand chosen men, for accomplishing his bold enterprise. Harold, who had succeeded Edward the Confessor on the throne of England, had been just engaged in repelling an attack upon England by the Norwegians², and was

¹ Wilhelm der Eroberer, Begründer der normannisch-englischen Dynastie, war ein Sohn Roberts II., des Teufels, Herzogs von der Normandie. Bei Gelegenheit eines Besuches, den Wilhelm am Hofe des mit ihm verwandten englischen Königs Edward des Bekenners abstattete, soll ihm letzterer Versprechungen in bezug auf die Erbfolge in England gemacht haben, eine Sage, die geschichtlich nicht bewiesen ist. Als nach dem Ableben Edwards dessen Schwager Harold von Wessex von den Grossen des Reiches auf den Thron erhoben wurde, landete Wilhelm den 28. Sept. 1066 bei Hastings und lieferte hier seinem Rivalen am 14. Okt. eine blutige Schlacht, in der Harold Thron und Leben verlor. Mit ihm erlosch die Dynastie der angelsächsischen Könige auf dem englischen Thron.

² Harold schlug die Norweger bei Stamfordbridge. Vgl. auch Anm. 1.

now called upon to oppose this new and more formidable invasion. He was, therefore, taken at considerable disadvantage.

The armies of England and Normandy engaged in a desperate battle near Hastings, and the victory was long obstinately contested. The Normans had [14th Oct. 1066] a great advantage, from having amongst them large bands of archers, who used the long-bow, and greatly annoyed the English, who had but few bowmen to oppose them, and only short darts called javelins, which they threw from their hands, and which could do little hurt at a distance. Yet the victory remained doubtful, though the battle had lasted from nine in the morning until the close of the day, when an arrow pierced through King Harold's head, and he fell dead on the spot. The English then retreated from the field, and Duke William used his advantage with so much skill and dexterity, that he made himself master of all England, and reigned there under the title of William the Conqueror. He divided great part of the rich country of England among his Norman followers, who held lands of him for military service, according to the rules of the feudal system, of which I gave you some account. The Anglo-Saxons, you may well suppose, were angry at this, and attempted several times to rise against King William, and drive him and his soldiers back to Normandy. But they were always defeated; and so King William became more severe towards these Anglo-Saxons, and took away their lands, and their high rank and appointments, until he left scarce any of them in possession of great estates, or offices of rank, but put his Normans above them, as masters, in every situation.

Thus the Saxons who had conquered the British, as you have before read, were in their turn conquered by the Normans, deprived of their property, and reduced to be the servants of those proud foreigners. To this day, though several of the ancient

nobility of England claim to be descended from the Normans, there is scarcely a nobleman, and very few of the gentry, who can show that they are descended of the Saxon blood; William the Conqueror took so much care to deprive the conquered people of all power and importance.

It must have been a sad state of matters in England, when the Normans were turning the Saxons out of their estates and habitations, and degrading them from being freemen into slaves. But good came out of it in the end; for these Normans were not only one of the bravest peoples that ever lived, but they were possessed* of more learning and skill in the arts than the Saxons. They brought with them the art of building large and beautiful castles and churches composed of stone, whereas the Saxons had only miserable houses made of wood. The Normans introduced the use of the long-bow also, which became so general, that the English were accounted the best archers in the world, and gained many battles by their superiority in that military art.¹ Besides these advantages, the Normans lived in a more civilized manner than the Saxons, and observed among each other the rules of civility and good-breeding, of which the Saxons were ignorant. The Norman barons were also great friends to national liberty, and would not allow their kings to do any thing contrary to their privileges, but resisted them whenever they attempted any thing beyond the power which was given to them by law. Schools were set up in several places by the Norman princes, and learning was encouraged. Large towns were also founded in different places of the kingdom, and received favour from the Norman kings, who desired

¹ So besonders in dem hundertjährigen Krieg zwischen England und Frankreich bei Crécy 1346, Poitiers 1356, Azincourt 1415 etc.

to have the assistance of the townsmen, in case of any dispute with their nobility.

Thus the Norman Conquest, though a most unhappy and disastrous event at the time[†] it took place, rendered England, in the end, a more wise, more civilized, and more powerful country than it had been before; and you will find many such cases in history, in which it has pleased the providence of God to bring great good out of what* seems, at first sight, to be unmixed evil.

Chapter IV.

Reign of Malcolm Canmore — of David I. — Battle of the Standard — Origin of the Claim by England of Supremacy over Scotland — Malcolm IV., surnamed the Maiden — Origin of Armorial Bearings — William the Lion admits the Supremacy of England, but is released from it by Richard Cœur de Lion.

[1057—1189.]

The Norman Conquest of England produced a great effect upon their neighbours. In the first place, a very great number of the Saxons who fled from the cruelty of William the Conqueror, retired into Scotland, and this had a considerable effect in civilizing the southern parts of that country; for if the Saxons were inferior to the Normans in arts and in learning, they were, on the other hand, much superior to the Scots, who were a rude and very ignorant people.

These exiles were headed and accompanied by what* remained of the Saxon royal family, and particularly by a young prince named Edgar Etheling, who was a near kinsman of Edward the Confessor¹, and the heir of his throne, but dispossessed by the Norman conqueror.

This prince brought with him to Scotland two sisters, named Margaret and Christian. They were received with much kindness by Malcolm III., called Canmore (or Gread Head), who remembered the assistance which he had received from Edward the Confessor², and felt himself obliged to behave generously towards his family in their³ misfortunes. He himself married the Princess Margaret [1068], and made her the Queen of Scotland. She was an excellent woman, and of such a gentle, amiable disposition, that she often prevailed upon her husband, who was a fierce, passionate man, to lay aside his resentment, and forgive those who had offended him.

When Malcolm King of Scotland was thus connected with the Saxon royal family of England, he began to think of chasing away the Normans, and of restoring Edgar Etheling to the English throne. This was an enterprise for which he had not sufficient strength; but he made deep and bloody inroads into the northern parts of England, and brought away so many captives, that they were to be found* for many years afterwards in every Scottish village, nay, in every Scottish hovel. No doubt, the number of the Saxons thus introduced into Scotland, tended much to improve and civilize the manners of the people.

Not only the Saxons, but afterwards a number of the Normans themselves, came to settle in Scotland. King William could not satisfy the whole*

¹ Siehe pag. 19 Anm. 1.

² Siehe pag. 14.

³ Vergleiche pag. 4 Anm. 3.

of them, and some, who were discontented, and thought[†] they could mend their fortunes, repaired to the Scottish court, and were welcomed by King Malcolm. He was desirous to retain these brave men in his service, and, for that purpose, he gave them great grants of land, to be held¹ for military services; and most of the Scottish nobility are of Norman descent. And thus the Feudal System was introduced into Scotland as well as England, and went on gradually gaining strength, till it became the general law of the country, as indeed it was that of Europe at large.

Malcolm Canmore, thus increasing in power, and obtaining reinforcements of warlike and civilized subjects, began greatly to enlarge his dominions. At first he had resided almost entirely in the province of Fife, and at the town of Dunfermline, where there are still the ruins of a small tower which served him for a palace. But as he found his power increase, he ventured across the frith of Forth, and took possession of Edinburgh and the surrounding country, which had hitherto been accounted part of England. The great strength of the castle of Edinburgh, situated upon a lofty rock, led him to choose that town frequently for his residence, so that in time it became the metropolis or chief city of Scotland.

This king Malcolm was a brave and wise prince, though without education. He often made war upon King William the Conqueror of England, and upon his son and successor William, who, from his complexion, was called William² Rufus, that is, Red William. Malcolm was sometimes beaten in these wars, but he was more frequently successful; and not only made a complete conquest of Lothian, but threatened also to possess himself of the great English

¹ *to be held* = which they had to hold (were to hold).

² Wilhelm II., der Rote, regierte von 1087—1100.

province of Northumberland, which he frequently invaded. In Cumberland, also, he held many possessions. But in the year 1093 Malcolm besieged the border fortress of Alnwick, where he was unexpectedly attacked by a great Norman baron, called Robert de Moubray¹, who defeated the Scottish army completely. Malcolm Canmore was killed in the action, and his eldest son fell by his side.

Queen Margaret of Scotland was extremely ill at the time[†] her husband marched against England. When she was lying on her death-bed, she saw her second son, who had escaped from the fatal battle, approach her bed. "How fares it," said the expiring Queen, "with your father, and with your brother Edward?" — The young man stood silent. — "I conjure you," she added, "by the Holy Cross, and by the duty[†] you owe me, to tell me the truth."

"Your husband and your son are both slain."

"The will of God be done," answered the Queen, and expired, with expressions of devout resignation to the pleasure of Heaven. This good princess was esteemed a Saint by those of the period in which she lived, and was called Saint Margaret.

After the death of Malcolm Canmore, the Scottish crown was occupied successively by three princes of little power or talent, who seized on the supreme authority because the children of the deceased sovereign were under age. After these had ended their short reigns, the sons of Malcolm came to the throne in succession, by name Edgar, — Alexander, called the First, — and David, also called the First of that name. These two last princes were men of great ability. David, in particular, was a wise, religious, and powerful prince. He had many furious wars with England, and made dreadful incursions into the

¹ Robert de Moubray, Graf von Northumberland, empörte sich im Jahre 1095 selbst gegen Wilhelm II.

neighbouring provinces, which were the* more easy as the country of England was then disunited by civil war. The cause was this: —

Henry I.,¹ the youngest son of William the Conqueror, had died, leaving only one child, a daughter, named Matilda², or Maud, whose mother was a daughter of Malcolm Canmore, and a sister, consequently, of David, King of Scotland. During Henry's life, all the English barons had agreed that his daughter should succeed him on the throne. Upon the King's death [1135], however, Stephen², Earl of Mortagne, a great Norman lord, usurped the government, to the exclusion of the Empress Matilda, (so called because she had married the Emperor of Germany²) and caused* himself to be proclaimed King. Many of the English barons took arms against Stephen, with the purpose of doing justice to the Empress Maud, and her son Henry. It was natural, that David, King of Scotland, should join the party which favoured his niece. But he also took the opportunity to attempt an extension of his own dominions.

¹ Heinrich I., König von England (1100—1135).

² Mathilde wurde im Jahre 1114 mit dem deutschen Kaiser Heinrich V. vermählt. Nach dem Tode ihres Gemahls kehrte sie nach England zurück und wurde hier zur Thronerbin erklärt. Sie vermählte sich zum zweiten Male 1127 mit Gottfried von Plantagenet, Graf von Anjou. Als ihr Vater im Jahre 1135 starb, bemächtigte sich ein Neffe des verstorbenen Königs, Graf Stephan von Blois, des englischen Thrones. Nach wechsellvollen Kämpfen entsagte Mathilde der Krone, hingegen erneuerte ihr Sohn Heinrich nunmehr seinerseits seine Ansprüche auf den Thron, liess sich jedoch, bevor es noch zum Kampfe kam, zu einem Vergleich herbei, dem zufolge Stephan ihn als Sohn und Erben des Königreichs adoptierte, wogegen Heinrich sich verpflichtete, bei Lebzeiten Stephans allen seinen Rechten auf die Krone zu entsagen. Stephan starb ein Jahr später (1154). Nun bestieg dem Erbvertrag gemäss Heinrich II., der erste König aus dem Hause Anjou (Plantagenet 1154—1485), den Thron Englands.

He assembled from the different provinces of Scotland a large but ill-disciplined army, consisting of troops of different nations and languages, who had only one common principle — the love of plunder. There were Normans, and Germans, and English; there were the Danes of Northumberland, and the British of Cumberland, and of the valley of Clyde; there were the men of Teviotdale, who were chiefly Britons, and those of Lothian, who were Saxons; and there were also the people of Galloway. These last were almost a separate and independent people, of peculiarly wild and ferocious habits.

The barons of the northern parts of England, hearing that the King of Scotland was advancing at the head of this formidable army, resolved to assemble their forces to give him battle. Thurstan, the archbishop of York, joined with them. They hoisted a banner, which they called that of Saint Peter, upon a carriage mounted on wheels; from which circumstance the war took the name of the Battle of the Standard. The two armies came in sight of each other at Cuton Moor, near Northallerton, and prepared to fight on the next morning. It was a contest of great importance; for if David should prove able to defeat the army now opposed to him, there seemed little to prevent him from conquering England as far as the Humber.

There was in the English army an aged baron named Robert Bruce, father of a race afterwards very famous in Scottish history. He had great estates both in England and Scotland. He loved King David, because he had been formerly his companion in arms, and he resolved to make an effort to preserve peace.

He went, therefore, to the Scottish camp, and endeavoured to persuade King David to retreat, and to make peace — remonstrated with him on the excesses which his army had committed — exaggerated the danger in which he was placed; and finally burst into tears when he declared his own purpose

of relinquishing his allegiance to the King of Scotland, and fighting against him in battle, if he persevered in his invasion. The King shed tears at this exhortation; but William Mac Donochy exclaimed, "Bruce, thou art a false traitor!" Bruce, incensed at this insult, left the camp of the Scots, renouncing for ever all obedience to David, and giving up the lands[†] he held of him in Scotland.

A dispute arose in the Scottish council of war. The Galloway men, who had gained a considerable battle in their advance into England, were intoxicated with their own success, and demanded peremptorily that they should lead the van in the battle of the next day. King David would fain have eluded the request. He had more confidence in the disciplined valour of the men-at-arms in his service, than in those brave, but tumultuous barbarians. A chief, called Malise, Earl of Strathearn, saw and was angry at David's hesitation. "Why so much confidence in a plate of steel, or in rings of iron?" said he. "I who wear no armour, will go as far to-morrow with a bare breast, as any one who wears a cuirass."

"Rude earl," said Allan de Percy, a Norman knight, "you brag of what* you dare not do."

The King interposed, and with difficulty appeased the dispute. He granted with reluctance the request of the men of Galloway.

In the morning, David prepared for the eventful contest. He drew his army up in three lines. The first, according to his promise, consisted of the Galloway men, who were commanded by William Mac Donochy, and Ulrick, and Dovenald. The second line consisted of the men-at-arms, the Borderers of Teviotdale, with the archers of Cumberland and Strathclyde. They were headed by Henry¹, Prince of Scotland, a brave and amiable youth. The King himself, surrounded

¹ Heinrich, Sohn des Königs David, vgl. pag. 36.

by a guard consisting of English and Norman men-at-arms, commanded the third body of troops, who were the men of Lothian, with the Northern Scots, properly so called.

The English were formed into one compact and firm battalion, in the midst of which the consecrated Standard was displayed. The bishop of Orkney, as deputed by the aged Thurstan, mounted the carriage of Saint Peter's Standard, and proclaiming[†] the war was a holy one, assured each English soldier that those who fell should immediately pass into Paradise. The English barons grasped each other's hands, and swore to be victorious, or die in the field.

The armies being now near each other, the men of Galloway charged, with cries which resembled the roar of a tempest. They fought for two hours with the greatest fury, and made such slaughter amongst the English spearmen that they began to give way. But the archers supported them, and showered their arrows so thick upon the Galloway men, that, having no defensive armour to resist the shot, they became dismayed, and began to retreat. Prince Henry of Scotland advanced to their support with the men-at-arms. He rushed at full gallop on that part of the English line which was opposed to him, and broke through it, says a historian, as if it had been a spider's web. He then attacked the rear of the English; the men of Galloway rallied, and were about to renew the contest, when an English soldier showed the head of a slain man on a spear, and called out[†] it was the King of Scots. The falsehood was believed by the Scottish army, who fell into confusion, and fled. The King in vain threw his helmet from his head, and rode barefaced among the soldiers, to show that he still lived. The alarm and panic were general, and the Scots lost a battle, which, if they had won, must have given them a great part of England, and eventually, it may be, the whole of that kingdom,

distracted as it was with civil war. It forced David to make peace with England, but it was upon the most favourable terms; since, excepting the fortresses of Newcastle and Bamborough, the whole of Northumberland and Durham was surrendered by Stephen to the Scottish monarch.

David died in the year 1153. His brave and amiable son, Henry, had died two or three years before his father. David was a most excellent sovereign. He would* leave his sport of hunting, or any thing in which he was engaged at the time, if the meanest of his subjects came to complain of any wrong which he had received; nor would he resume his amusement till he had seen the poor man redressed. He is also much praised by historians, who, in those times, were chiefly clergymen, for his great bounty to the Church.

It was during the reigns of Malcolm Canmore and his successors, that a dispute arose, grounded upon the feudal law, which occasioned a most dreadful quarrel between England and Scotland.

While the English were fighting among themselves, and afterwards with the Normans, the Scottish Kings, as I have repeatedly told you, had been enlarging their dominions at the expense of their neighbours, and had possessed themselves, in a great measure, of the northern provinces of England, called Lothian, Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmoreland. After much fighting¹ and disputing, it was agreed² that the King of Scotland should keep these English provinces, or such parts of them as he possessed, not as an independent sovereign, however, but as a vassal of the King of England; and that he should do homage for the same to the English King, and attend him to the field of battle when summoned. But this homage, and this military service, were not

¹ Siehe pag. 3 Anm. 2.

² Siehe pag. 7 Anm. 1.

paid on account of the kingdom of Scotland, which had never since the beginning of the world been under the dominion of an English King, but was, and had always remained independent, a free state, having sovereigns and monarchs of its own. It may seem strange how a King of Scotland should be vassal for that part of his dominions which lay in England, and an independent prince when he was considered as King of Scotland; but this might easily happen, according to the regulations of the feudal system. William the Conqueror himself stood in the same situation; for he held his great dukedom of Normandy, and his other possessions in France, as a vassal of the King of France, by whom it had been granted as a fief to his ancestor Rollo¹; but he was, at the same time, the independent Sovereign of England, of which he had gained possession by his victory at Hastings.

The English Kings, however, occasionally took opportunities to insinuate, that the homage paid by the Scottish Kings was not only for the provinces which they at this time possessed in England, but also for the kingdom of Scotland. The Scottish Kings, on the contrary, although they rendered the homage and services demanded, as holding² large possessions within the boundaries of England, uniformly and positively refused to permit it³ to be said or supposed, that they were subject to any claim of homage on account of the kingdom of Scotland. This was one cause of the frequent wars which took place betwixt the countries, in which the Scots maintained their national independence, and though frequently defeated, were often victorious, and threatened, upon more than one occasion, to make extensive acquisitions of territory at the expense of their neighbours.

¹ Siehe pag. 22 Anm. 1.

² *as holding* = since (as, because) they held.

³ „dass man“.

David was succeeded* by his grandson, named MALCOLM [1153, in his twelfth year], the eldest son of the brave and generous Prince Henry. Malcolm did homage to the King of England for the possessions which he had in England. He was so kind and gentle in his disposition, that he was usually called Malcolm the Maiden. Malcolm attached himself particularly to Henry II.¹, King of England, who was indeed a very wise and able Prince. The Scottish King at one time went the length* of resigning to Henry the possessions† he held in the North of England; nay, he followed that prince into France,² and acted as a volunteer in his army. This partiality to the English King disgusted the Scottish nation, who were afraid of the influence which Henry possessed over the mind of their youthful sovereign. They sent a message to France to upbraid Malcolm with his folly, and to declare they would not have* Henry of England to rule over them. Malcolm returned to Scotland with all speed, and reconciled himself to his subjects. He died at Jedburgh in the year 1165.

Malcolm the Maiden was succeeded* by his brother WILLIAM [crowned 24th December 1165], a son of Prince Henry, and grandson of the good King David. In his time, warriors and men of consequence began to assume what are called armorial bearings.

In the time of which I am speaking, the warriors went into battle clad in complete armour, which covered them from top to toe. On their head they wore iron caps, called helmets, with visors, which came down and protected the face, so that nothing could be seen of the countenance except the eyes peeping through bars of iron. But as it was necessary that a king, lord, or knight, should be known

¹ Siehe pag. 32 Anm. 2.

² Heinrich II. war in einen mehrjährigen Krieg mit Frankreich verwickelt, den er siegreich zu Ende führte.

to his followers in battle, they adopted two ways of distinguishing themselves. The one was by a crest, that is, a figure of some kind or other, as a lion, a wolf, a hand holding a sword, or some such decoration, which they wore on the top of the helmet. But, besides this mark of distinction, these warriors were accustomed to paint emblematical figures, sometimes of a very whimsical kind, upon their shields. These emblems became general; and at length no one was permitted to bear any such armorial device, excepting he either had right to carry it by inheritance, or that such right had been conferred upon him by some sovereign prince. To assume the crest or armorial emblems of another man was a high offence, and often mortally resented; and to adopt armorial bearings for yourself, was punished as a misdemeanour by a peculiar court, composed of men called Heralds, who gave their name to the science called Heraldry. As men disused the wearing of armour, the original purpose of heraldry fell into neglect, but still persons of ancient descent remained tenacious of the armorial distinctions of their ancestors; and they are now painted on carriages, or placed above the principal door of country-houses, or frequently engraved on seals.

Now, William King of Scotland having chosen for his armorial bearing a Red Lion, *rampant* (that is, standing on its hind legs, as if it were going to climb), he acquired the name of William the Lion. And this Rampant Lion still constitutes the arms of Scotland.

William, though a brave man, and though he had a lion for his emblem, was unfortunate in war. In the year 1174, he invaded England, for the purpose of demanding and compelling restoration of the portion of Northumberland, which had been possessed by his ancestors. He himself, with a small body of men, lay in careless security near Alnwick, while

his numerous, but barbarous and undisciplined army, were spread throughout the country, burning and destroying wherever they came. Some gallant Yorkshire barons marched to the aid of their neighbours of Northumberland. They assembled four hundred men-at-arms, and made a forced march of twenty-four miles from Newcastle towards Alnwick, without being discovered. On the morning a thick mist fell — they became uncertain of their road — and some proposed to turn back. “If you should all turn back,” said one of their leaders, named Bernard de Baliol, “I would go forward alone.” The others adopted the same resolution, and, concealed by the mist, they rode forward towards Alnwick. In their way they suddenly encountered the Scottish King, at the head of a small party of only sixty men. William so little expected a sudden attack of this nature, that at first he thought[†] the body of cavalry which he saw advancing was a part of his own army. When he was undeceived, he had too much of the lion about him to fear. “Now shall we see,” he said, “which of us are good knights;” and instantly charged the Yorkshire barons, with the handful of men who attended him. But sixty men-at-arms could make no impression on four hundred, and as the rest of William’s army were too distant to give him assistance, he was, after defending¹ himself with the utmost gallantry, unhorsed and made prisoner. The English immediately retreated with their royal captive, after this bold and successful adventure. They carried William to Newcastle, and from that town to Northampton, where he was conducted to the presence of Henry II., King of England, with his legs tied under his horse’s belly, as if he had been a common malefactor or felon.

This was a great abuse of the advantage which fortune had given to Henry, and was in fact more

¹ Siehe pag. 3 Anm. 2.

disgraceful to himself than to his prisoner. But the English King's subsequent conduct was equally harsh and ungenerous. He would not release his unfortunate captive until he had agreed to do homage to the King of England, not only for his English possessions, but also for Scotland, and all his other dominions. The Scottish Parliament were brought to acquiesce in this treaty; and thus, in order to recover the liberty of their King, they sacrificed the independence of their country. This dishonourable treaty was made on the 8th of December, 1174.

Thus the great national question of supremacy was for a time abandoned by the Scots; but this state of things did not last long. In 1189, Henry II. died, and was succeeded by his son, Richard the First¹, one of the most remarkable men in English history. He was so brave, that he was generally known by the name of Cœur de Lion, that is, the Lion-hearted; and he was as generous as he was brave. Nothing was so much at his heart, as what was then called the Holy War¹, that is, a war undertaken to drive the Saracens out of Palestine. For this he resolved to go to Palestine with a large army; but it was first necessary that he should place his affairs at home in such a condition as might ensure the quiet of his dominions during his absence upon the expedition. This point could not be accomplished without his making a solid peace with Scotland; and in order to obtain it, King Richard resolved to renounce the claim for homage, which had been extorted from William the Lion. By a charter, dated 5th December of the same year (1189), he restored to the King of Scots the castles of Berwick and Roxburgh, and

¹ Richard I. Löwenherz (1189—99) unternahm in Gemeinschaft mit Friedrich Barbarossa und dem französischen König Philipp II. August den dritten Kreuzzug (1189—1193), um das in die Hände des ägyptischen Sultans Saladin gefallene Jerusalem zurückzuerobern.

granted an acquittance to him of all obligations which Henry II. had extorted from him in consequence of his captivity, reserving only Richard's title to such homage as was anciently rendered by Malcolm Canmore. For this renunciation William paid ten thousand merks¹; a sum which probably assisted in furnishing the expenses of Richard's expedition to Palestine.

This generous behaviour of Richard of England was attended with such good effects, that it almost put an end to all wars and quarrels betwixt England and Scotland for more than a hundred years. This was much to the happiness of both. Intercourse for the purpose of traffic became more frequent. Some of the Scottish and English families formed marriages and friendships together, and several powerful lords and barons had lands both in England and Scotland. All seemed to promise peace and tranquillity betwixt the two kingdoms, until a course of melancholy accidents having² nearly extinguished the Scottish royal family, tempted the English monarch again to set up his unjust pretensions to be sovereign of Scotland, and gave occasion to a series of wars, fiercer and more bloody than any which had ever before taken place betwixt the countries.

Chapter V.

Accession of Alexander II. — Accession of Alexander III. — Invasion of the Danes, and Battle of Largs.

[1214—1263.]

WILLIAM THE LION died [at Stirling, in December 1214], and was succeeded* by his son, Alexander II.,

¹ Alte schottische Silbermünze im Werte von ungefähr 3 dollars und 22 cents.

² *having* = which had.

a youth in years, but remarkable for prudence and for firmness. In his days there was some war with England, as he espoused the cause of the disaffected barons, against King John¹. But no disastrous consequences having arisen, the peace betwixt the two kingdoms was so effectually restored, that Henry III.² of England, having occasion to visit his French dominions, committed the care of the northern frontiers of his kingdom to Alexander of Scotland, the prince who was most likely to have seized the opportunity of disturbing them. Alexander II. repaid with fidelity the great and honourable trust which his brother sovereign had reposed in him.

Relieved from the cares of an English war, Alexander endeavoured to civilize the savage manners of his own people. These were disorderly to a great degree.

By the prompt administration of justice, Alexander both became obeyed and dreaded. He was a sovereign of considerable power, beloved both by English and Scots. He had a brave and not ill-disciplined army; but his cavalry, which amounted only to a thousand spears, were not very well mounted, and bore no proportion to one hundred thousand of infantry, strong, good, and resolute men.

ALEXANDER III., then only in his eighth year, succeeded to his father in 1249. He showed great willingness to be on good terms with England, qualified by a sincere resolution that he would not

¹ Johann „Ohne Land“, Bruder und Nachfolger Richards (1199—1216), machte sich durch seine Grausamkeit und Genussucht allgemein verhasst, so dass der englische Adel von ihm abfiel und ein grosses Heer ausrüstete, um die ihm von dem Könige vorenthaltenen Rechte und Freiheiten mit Waffengewalt zurückzuerobern. Von allen verlassen, sah sich Johann genötigt, die Magna Charta (1215) zu unterzeichnen. Dieselbe gilt als Grundlage der englischen Verfassung.

² Heinrich III., Enkel Johanns „Ohne Land“, 1216—1272.

sacrifice any part of the rights and independence of his own dominions.

■ In the days of Alexander III. Scotland was threatened with a great danger, from the invasion of the Danes and the Norwegians. I have told you before, that these northern people were at this time wont to scour the seas with their vessels, and to make descents and conquests where it suited them to settle. England had been at one time conquered by them, and France had been compelled to yield up to them the fine provinces which, after their name, were called Normandy. The Scots, whose country was at once poor and mountainous, had hitherto held these rovers at defiance. But in the year 1263, Haco, King of Norway, at the head of a powerful fleet and army, came to invade and conquer the kingdom of Scotland. Alexander, on his part, lost no time in assembling a great army, and preparing for the defence of the country, in which he was zealously seconded by most of his nobles. They were not all, however, equally faithful, some of them had encouraged the attempt of the invaders.

On the 1st of October, 1263, Haco, having arrived on the western coast, commenced hostilities by making himself master of the Islands of Bute and Arran, lying in the mouth of the frith of Clyde, and then appeared with his great navy off the village of Largs, in Cunninghame. The Scots were in arms to defend the shore, but Haco disembarked a great part of his troops, and obtained some advantages over them. On the next day, more Scottish troops having come up, the battle was renewed with great fury. Alexander, fighting in person at the head of his troops, was wounded in the face by an arrow. Alexander, the Steward, a high officer* in the Scottish court, was killed. But the Danes lost the nephew* of their King, one of the most renowned champions in their host. While the battle was still raging on shore, a furious

tempest arose, which drove the ships of the Danes and Norwegians from their anchorage; many were shipwrecked on the coast, and the crews were destroyed by the Scots, when they attempted to get upon land. The soldiers, who had been disembarked, lost courage, and retired before the Scots, who were hourly reinforced by their countrymen, coming from all quarters. It was with the utmost difficulty that Haco got the remnant of his scattered forces on board of such vessels as remained. He retired to the Orkney Islands, and there died, full of shame and sorrow for the loss of his army, and the inglorious conclusion of his formidable invasion.

The consequence of this victory was, that the King of the Island of Man, who had been tributary to Haco, now submitted himself to the King of Scotland; and negotiations took place betwixt Alexander III. and Magnus, who had succeeded Haco in the throne of Norway, by which the latter resigned to the King of Scotland (1266) all right to the islands on the western side of Scotland, called the Hebrides.

The traces of the battle of Largs, a victory of so much consequence to Scotland, are still to be found on the shores where the battle was fought. There are visible great rocks and heaps of stones, beneath which lie interred the remains of the slain. Human bones are found in great quantities, and also warlike weapons, particularly axes, and swords, which being made of brass, remain longer unconsumed than if they had been of iron or steel like those now used.

Chapter VI.

Death of Alexander III. — Margaret of Norway — Interregnum — Competitors for the Crown — Usurpation of Edward I. of England.

[1263 — 1296.]

SEVEN kings of Scotland, omitting one or two temporary occupants of the throne, had reigned in succession, after Malcolm Canmore, the son of Duncan, who recovered the kingdom from Macbeth. Their reigns occupied a period of nearly two hundred years. Some of them were very able men; all of them were well-disposed, good sovereigns, and inclined to discharge their duty towards their subjects. They made good laws; and, considering the barbarous and ignorant times[†] they lived in, they appear to have been men as deserving of praise as any race of kings who reigned in Europe during that period. Alexander, the third of that name, and the last of these seven princes, was an excellent sovereign. He married Margaret, daughter of Henry III.¹ of England; but unhappily all the children who were born of that marriage died before their father. After the death of Queen Margaret, Alexander married another wife; but he did not live² to have any family by her. As he was riding in the dusk of the evening, along the sea-coast of Fife, betwixt Burntisland and Kinghorn, he approached too near the brink of the precipice, and, his horse starting or stumbling, he was thrown over the rock, and killed on the spot. It is now no less than five hundred and forty-two years since Alexander's death, yet the people of the country still point out the very* spot where it happened, and which

¹ Siehe pag. 43 Anm. 2.

² Ergänze: long enough.

is called the King's Crag. The very melancholy consequences which followed Alexander's decease, made* the manner of it long remembered.

The full consequences of the evil were not visible at first; for, although all Alexander's children had died before him, yet one of them, who had been married to Eric, King of Norway, had left a daughter named Margaret, upon whom, as the grand-daughter and nearest heir of the deceased prince, the crown of Scotland devolved. The young princess, called by our historians the Maid of Norway, was residing at her father's court.

While the crown of Scotland thus passed to a young girl, the King of England began to consider by what means he could so avail himself of circumstances, as to unite it with his own. This king was Edward, called the first, because he was the first of the Norman line of princes so named. He was a very brave man, and a good soldier, — wise, skilful, and prudent, but unhappily very ambitious, and desirous of extending his royal authority, without caring much whether he did so by right means or by those which were unjust. And although it is a great sin to covet that which does not belong to you, and a still greater to endeavour to possess yourself of it by any unfair practices, yet his desire of adding the kingdom of Scotland to that of England was so great, that Edward was unable to resist it.

The mode by which the English King at first endeavoured to accomplish his object was a very just one. He proposed a marriage betwixt the Maiden of Norway, the young Queen of Scotland, and his own eldest son, called Edward, after himself. A treaty was entered into for this purpose; and† had the marriage been effected, and been followed by children, the union of England and Scotland might have taken place more than three hundred years sooner than it did, and an immeasurable quantity of money and

bloodshed would probably have been saved. But it was not the will of Heaven that this desirable union should be accomplished till many long years of war and distress had afflicted both these nations. The young Queen of Scotland sickened and died, and the treaty for the marriage was ended with her life.

The kingdom of Scotland was troubled, and its inhabitants sunk into despair, at the death of their young princess. There was not any descendant of Alexander III. remaining, who could be considered as his direct and undeniable heir: and many of the great nobles, who were more or less distantly related to the royal family, prepared each of them to assert a right to the crown, began to assemble forces and form parties, and threatened the country with a civil war, which is the greatest of all misfortunes. The number of persons who set up claims to the crown was no fewer than twelve, all of them forming pretensions on some relationship, more or less distant, to the royal family. These claimants were most of them powerful, from their rank and the number of their followers; and, if they should dispute the question of right by the sword, it was evident that the whole country would be at war from one sea to the other.

To prevent this great dilemma, it is said* the Scottish nobility resolved to submit the question respecting the succession of their kingdom to Edward I. of England, who was one of the wisest princes of his time, and to request of him to settle, as umpire, which of the persons claiming the throne of Scotland had best right to be preferred to the others. The people of Scotland are said* to have sent ambassadors to Edward, to request his interference as judge; but he had already determined to regulate the succession of the kingdom, not as a mere umpire, having no authority but* from the desire of the parties, but as himself a person principally concerned; and for this purpose he resolved to revive the old pretext of his

having right to the feudal sovereignty of Scotland, which, as we have before seen, had been deliberately renounced by his generous predecessor Richard I.¹

With this secret and unjust purpose, Edward of England summoned the nobility and clergy of Scotland to meet him at the castle of Norham, a large and strong fortress, which stands on the English side of the Tweed, on the line where that river divides England from Scotland. They met there on the 10th May, 1291, and were presented to the King of England, who received them in great state, surrounded by the high officers* of his court. He was a very handsome man, and so tall, that he was popularly known by the name of Longshanks, that is, long legs. The Justiciary of England then informed the nobility and clergy of Scotland, in King Edward's name, that before he could proceed to decide who should be the vassal King of Scotland, it was necessary that they should acknowledge the King of England's right as Lord Paramount, or Sovereign of that kingdom.

The nobles and churchmen of Scotland were surprised to hear the King of England propose a claim which had never been admitted, except for a short time, in order to procure the freedom of King William the Lion², and which had been afterwards renounced for ever by Richard I. They refused to give any answer until they should consult together by themselves. "By St. Edward!" said the King, "whose crown I wear, I will make good* my just rights, or perish in the attempt!" He then dismissed the assembly, allowing the Scots a delay of three weeks, however, to accede to his terms.

The Scottish nobility being thus made aware of King Edward's selfish and ambitious designs, ought to have assembled their forces together, and declared

¹ Siehe pag. 41 Anm. 1.

² Siehe pag. 41.

that they¹ would defend the rights and independence of their country. But they were much divided among themselves, and without any leader; and the competitors who laid claim to the crown, were mean-spirited enough to desire to make favour with King Edward, in expectation that he would raise to the throne him whom he should find most willing to subscribe to his own claims of paramount superiority.

Accordingly, the second assembly of the Scottish nobility and clergy took place without any one having dared to state any objection to what* the King of England proposed, however unreasonable they knew his pretensions to be. They were assembled in a large open plain, called Upsetlington, opposite to the castle of Norham, but on the northern or Scottish side of the river. The Chancellor of England then demanded of such of the candidates as were present, whether they acknowledged the King of England as Lord Paramount of Scotland, and whether they were willing to receive and hold the crown of Scotland, as awarded by Edward in that character. They all answered that they were willing to do so; and thus, rather than hazard their own claims by offending King Edward, these unworthy candidates consented to resign the independence of their country, which had been so long and so bravely defended.

Upon* examining the claims of the candidates, the right of succession to the throne of Scotland was found² to lie chiefly betwixt Robert Bruce³, the Lord of Annandale, and John Baliol, who was the Lord of Galloway. Both were great and powerful barons; both were of Norman descent, and had great estates in England as well as Scotland; lastly, both were

¹ Vergl. pag. 4 Anm. 3.

² Siehe pag. 7 Anm. 1.

³ Robert Bruce, Grossvater des späteren schottischen Königs R. Bruce (1306--1329).

descended from the Scottish royal family, and each by a daughter of David, Earl of Huntingdon, brother of William the Lion. Edward, upon due consideration, declared Baliol to be King of Scotland, as being son of Margaret, the eldest of the two sisters. But he declared that the kingdom was* always to be held under him as the lord paramount, or sovereign thereof. John Baliol closed the disgraceful scene by doing homage to the King of England, and acknowledging that he was his liege vassal and subject. This remarkable event took place on 20th November, 1292.

Soon after this remarkable, and to Scotland most shameful transaction, King Edward began to show to Baliol that it was not his purpose to be satisfied with a bare acknowledgment of his right of sovereignty, but that he was determined to exercise it with severity on every possible occasion. He did this, no doubt, on purpose to provoke the dependent King to some act of resistance, which should give him a pretext for depriving him of the kingdom altogether as a disobedient subject, and taking it under his own government in his usurped character of lord paramount. The King of England, therefore, encouraged the Scottish subjects to appeal from the courts of Baliol to his own; and as Baliol declined making appearance in the English tribunals, or answering there for the sentences which he had pronounced in his capacity of King of Scotland, Edward insisted upon having possession of three principal fortresses of Scotland — Berwick, Roxburgh, and Jedburgh.

Baliol surrendered, or at least agreed to surrender, these castles; but the people murmured against this base compliance, and Baliol himself, perceiving that it was Edward's intention gradually to destroy his power, was stung at once with shame and fear, and, entering into a league with France, raised a great army, for the purpose of invading England, the dominions of the prince whom he had so lately

acknowledged his lord paramount, or sovereign. At the same time he sent a letter to Edward, formally renouncing his dependence upon him. Edward replied, in Norman French¹, "Ha! — dares this idiot commit such folly? Since he will not attend on us, as is his duty, we will go to him."

The King of England accordingly assembled a powerful army, amongst which came Bruce, who had formerly contended for the crown of Scotland with Baliol, and who now hoped to gain it upon his forfeiture. Edward defeated the Scottish army in a great battle near Dunbar, and Baliol, who appears to have been a mean-spirited man, gave up the contest. He came before Edward in the castle of Roxburgh, and there made a most humiliating submission. He appeared in a mean dress, without sword, royal robes, or arms of any kind, and bearing in his hand a white wand. He there confessed that through bad counsel and folly he had rebelled against his liege lord, and, in atonement, he resigned the kingdom of Scotland, with the inhabitants, and all right which he possessed to* their obedience and duty, to their liege lord King Edward. He was then permitted² to retire uninjured.

Baliol being thus removed, Bruce expressed his hopes of being allowed³ to supply his place, as tributary or dependent King of Scotland. But Edward answered him sternly, "Have we nothing, think you⁴, to do, but* to conquer kingdoms for you?" By which words the English King plainly expressed, that he intended to keep Scotland to himself; and he proceeded to take such measures as* made his purpose still more evident.

¹ Während des Mittelalters schied sich das Französische in vier Dialekte: den normannischen, pikardischen, burgundischen und den Dialekt von Isle de France.

² Siehe pag. 7 Anm. 1.

³ = that he might be allowed.

⁴ Veraltet für *do you think*.

Edward marched through Scotland at the head of a powerful army, compelling all ranks of people to submit to him. He removed to London the records of the kingdom of Scotland, and was at the pains¹ to transport to the Abbey Church at Westminster a great stone, upon which it had been the national custom to place the King of Scotland when he was crowned for the first time. He did this to show that he was absolute master of Scotland, and that the country was* in future to have no other king but himself, and his descendants the Kings of England. The stone is still preserved, and to this day the King's throne is placed upon it at the time when he is crowned. Last of all, King Edward placed the government of Scotland in the hands of John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, a brave nobleman; of Hugh Cressingham, a clergyman, whom he named chief treasurer; and of William Ormesby, whom he appointed the chief judge of the kingdom. He placed English soldiers in all the castles and strongholds of Scotland, from the one end of the kingdom to the other; and not trusting the Scots themselves, he appointed English governors in most of the provinces of the kingdom.

We may here remark that a little before he thus subdued Scotland, this same Edward I. had made conquest of Wales², that mountainous part of the island of Britain into which the Britons had retreated³ from the Saxons¹, and where, until the reign of this artful and ambitious prince, they had been able to maintain their independence. In subduing Wales, Edward had acted as treacherously, and more cruelly, than he had done in Scotland; since he had hanged the last Prince of Wales, when he became his prisoner, for no other crime than because he defended his country against the English, who had no right to it.

¹ *was at the pains jetzt dafür took the trouble.*

² Siehe pag. 8 Anm. 1.

³ Siehe pag. 6 Anm. 4.

Chapter VII.

The Story of Sir William Wallace.

[1296—1305.]

I told you that Edward I. of England had reduced Scotland almost entirely to the condition of a conquered country, although he had obtained possession of the kingdom less by his bravery, than by cunningly taking advantage of the disputes and divisions that followed amongst the Scots themselves after the death of Alexander III.

The English, however, had in point of fact* obtained possession of the country, and governed it with much rigour. The Lord High Justice Ormesby¹ called all men to account, who would not take the oath of allegiance to King Edward. Many of the Scots refused this, as what² the English King had no right to demand from them. Such persons were called into the courts of justice, fined, deprived of their estates, and otherwise severely punished. Then Hugh Cressingham, the English Treasurer¹, tormented the Scottish nation, by collecting money from them³ under various pretexts. The Scots were always a poor people, and their native kings had treated them with much kindness, and seldom required them to pay any taxes. They were, therefore, extremely enraged at finding themselves obliged to pay to the English treasurer much larger sums of money than their own good kings had ever demanded from them; and they became exceedingly dissatisfied.

Besides these modes of oppression, the English soldiers, who,[†] I told you⁴, had been placed in garrison

¹ Siehe pag. 53.

² *as what* = as something that.

³ Vgl. pag. 4 Anm. 3.

⁴ Siehe pag. 53.

in the different castles of Scotland, thought themselves masters of the country, treated the Scots with great contempt, took from them by main force whatever they had a fancy* to, and if the owners offered to resist, abused them, beat and wounded and sometimes killed them; for which acts of violence the English officers did not check or punish their soldiers. Scotland was, therefore, in great distress, and the inhabitants, exceedingly enraged, only wanted some leader to command them, to rise up in a body* against the English or Southern men, as they called them, and recover the liberty and independence of their country, which had been destroyed by Edward the First.

Such a leader arose in the person of William Wallace. It is a great pity† we do not know exactly the history of this brave man; for at the time when he lived, every one was so busy fighting¹, that there was no person to write down the history of what* took place; and afterwards, when there was more leisure for composition, the truths that were collected were greatly mingled with falsehood.

William Wallace was none of the high nobles of Scotland, but the son of a private gentleman, called Wallace of Ellerslie, in Renfrewshire, near Paisley. He was very tall and handsome, and one of the strongest and bravest men that ever lived. He was particularly dexterous in the use of all weapons which were then employed in battle. Wallace, like all Scotsmen of high spirit, had looked with great indignation upon the usurpation of the crown by Edward, and upon the insolences which the English soldiers committed on his countrymen. It is said, that when he was very young, he went a-fishing* for sport in the river of Irvine, near Ayr. He had caught a good many trouts, which were carried by a boy, who

¹ *busy fighting* = busy in fighting.

attended him with a fishing-basket. Two or three English soldiers, who belonged to the garrison of Ayr, came up to Wallace, and insisted, with their usual insolence, on taking the fish from the boy. Wallace was contented to allow them a part of the trouts, but he refused to part* with the whole basketful. The soldiers insisted, and from words came¹ to blows. Wallace had no better weapon than the butt-end of his fishing-rod; but he struck the foremost of the Englishmen so hard under the ear with it, that he killed him on the spot; and getting possession of the slain man's sword, he fought with so much fury that he put the others to flight, and brought home his fish safe and sound. The English governor of Ayr sought for him, to punish him with death for this action; but Wallace lay concealed among the hills and great woods till the matter was forgotten, and then appeared in another part of the country. He is said* to have had other adventures of the same kind, in which he gallantly defended himself, sometimes when² alone, sometimes with very few companions, against superior numbers of the English, until at last his name became generally known as a terror to them.

907.2
But the action which occasioned his finally rising in arms, is believed* to have happened in the town of Lanark. Wallace was at this time married to a lady of that place, and residing there with his wife. It chanced, as he walked in the market-place, dressed in a green garment, with a rich dagger by his side, that an Englishman came up and insulted him on account of his finery, saying†, a Scotsman had no business to wear so gay a dress, or carry so handsome a weapon. It soon came to a quarrel, as on many former occasions; and Wallace, having killed the Englishman, fled to his own house, which was

¹ *came* = they came oder it came.

² *when alone* = when he was alone.

speedily assaulted by all the English soldiers. While they were endeavouring to force their way in* at the front of the house, Wallace escaped by a back-door, and got in safety to a rugged and rocky glen, near Lanark, called the Cartland-crags, all covered with bushes and trees, and full of high precipices, where he knew† he should be safe from the pursuit of the English soldiers. In the mean time, the governor of Lanark, whose name was Hazelrigg, burned Wallace's house, and put his wife and servants to death; and by committing this cruelty increased to the highest pitch the hatred which the champion had always borne against the English usurper. Hazelrigg also proclaimed Wallace an outlaw, and offered a reward to any one who should bring him to an English garrison, alive or dead.

On the other hand, Wallace soon collected a body of men, outlawed like himself, or willing to become so¹, rather than any longer endure the oppression of the English. One of his earliest expeditions was directed against Hazelrigg, whom he killed, and thus avenged the death of his wife. He fought skirmishes with the soldiers who were sent against him, and often defeated them; and in time became so well known and so formidable, that multitudes began to resort to his standard, until at length he was at the head of a considerable army, with which he proposed to restore his country to independence.

About this time is said* to have taken place a memorable event, which the Scottish people called the *Barns of Ayr*. It is alleged that the English governor of Ayr² had invited the greater part of the Scottish nobility and gentry in the western parts, to meet him at some large buildings called the barns of Ayr, for the purpose of friendly conference upon

¹ so = outlawed

² Siehe pag. 59.

the affairs of the nation. But the English earl entertained the treacherous purpose of putting the Scottish gentlemen to death. The English soldiers had halts with running nooses ready* prepared, and hung upon the beams which supported the roof; and as the Scottish gentlemen were admitted by two and two at a time*, the nooses were thrown over their heads, and they were pulled up by the neck, and thus hanged or strangled to death. Among those who were slain in this base and treacherous manner, was Sir Reginald Crawford, Sheriff of the county of Ayr, and uncle to William Wallace.

When Wallace heard of what had befallen, he was dreadfully enraged, and collecting his men in a wood near the town of Ayr, he resolved to be revenged¹ on the authors of this great crime. The English in the mean while made much feasting, and when they had eaten and drunk plentifully, they lay down to sleep in the same large barns in which they had murdered the Scottish gentlemen. But Wallace, learning that they kept no guard or watch, not suspecting[†] there were any enemies so near them, directed a woman, who knew the place, to mark with chalk the doors of the lodgings where the Englishmen lay. Then he sent a party of men, who, with strong ropes, made all the doors so fast on the outside, that those within could not open them. On the outside the Scots had prepared heaps of straw, to which they set fire, and the barns of Ayr, being themselves made of wood, were soon burning in a bright flame. Then the English were awakened, and endeavoured to get out to save their lives. But the doors, as I told you, were secured on the outside, and bound fast with ropes; and, besides, the blazing houses were surrounded by the Scots, who forced those who got out to run back into the fire, or else put them to death on the spot;

¹ *to be revenged* = to revenge himself.

and thus great numbers perished miserably. Many of the English were lodged in a convent, but they had no better fortune than the others; for the prior of the convent caused* all the friars to arm themselves, and attacking the English guests, they put most of them to the sword*. This was called the "Friar of Ayr's Blessing."

Thus Wallace's party grew daily stronger and stronger, and many of the Scottish nobles joined with him. Many of these great noblemen, however, deserted the cause of the country on the approach of John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, the English governor, at the head of a numerous and well-appointed army. They thought that Wallace would be unable to withstand the attack of so many disciplined soldiers, and hastened to submit themselves to the English, for fear of losing their estates. Wallace, however, remained undismayed, and at the head of a considerable army. He had taken up his camp upon the northern side of the river Forth, near the town of Stirling. The river was there crossed by a long wooden bridge, about a mile above the spot where the present bridge is situated.

The English general approached the banks of the river on the southern side. He sent two clergymen to offer a pardon to Wallace and his followers, on condition that they should lay down their arms. But such was not the purpose of the high-minded champion of Scotland.

"Go back to Warenne," said Wallace, "and tell him† we value not¹ the pardon of the King of England. We are not here for the purpose of treating of peace, but of abiding battle, and restoring freedom to our country. Let the English come on; — we defy them to their very beards²!"

¹ *we value not* (veraltete Form) = we do not value.

² *to their very beards* = face, indem ein Teil für das Ganze gesetzt ist. Vgl. französisch *rire à la barbe, au nez de q.*

The English, upon hearing this haughty answer, called loudly to be led to the attack. Their leader, the earl of Warenne hesitated, for he was a skilful soldier, and he saw that, to¹ approach the Scottish army, his troops must pass over the long, narrow wooden bridge; so that those who should get over first might be attacked by Wallace with all his forces, before those who remained behind could possibly come to their assistance. He therefore inclined to delay the battle. But Cressingham, the treasurer, who was ignorant and presumptuous, insisted that it was their duty to fight, and put² an end to the war at once; and Warenne gave way to his opinion, although Cressingham, being a churchman, could not be so good a judge of what* was fitting as he himself, an experienced officer.

The English army began to cross the bridge, Cressingham leading the van, or foremost division of the army; for, in those military days, even clergymen wore armour and fought in battle. That took place which Warenne had foreseen. Wallace suffered* a considerable part of the English army to pass the bridge, without offering any opposition; but when about one-half were³ over, and the bridge was crowded with those who were following, he charged those who had crossed with his whole strength, slew a very great number, and drove the rest into the river Forth, where the greater part were³ drowned. The remainder of the English army, who were³ left on the southern bank of the river, fled in great confusion, having first set fire to the wooden bridge, that the Scots might not pursue them. Cressingham was killed in the very* beginning of the battle; and the Scots detested him so much, that they flayed the skin from his dead

¹ *to* = in order to.

² *put* = to put.

³ Vergl. pag. 4 Anm. 3.

body, and kept pieces of it, in memory of the revenge[†] they had taken upon the English treasurer. Some say[†] they made saddle-girths of this same skin. It must be owned to have been a dishonourable thing of the Scots to insult thus the dead body of their enemy, and shows that they must have been then a ferocious and barbarous people.

The remains of Warenne's great army fled out of Scotland after this defeat; and the Scots, taking arms on all sides, attacked the castles in which the English soldiers continued to shelter themselves, and took most of them by force or stratagem [1297]. Wallace defeated the English in several combats, chased them almost entirely out of Scotland, regained the towns and castles of which they had possessed themselves, and recovered for a time the complete freedom of the country. He even marched into England, and laid Cumberland and Northumberland waste, where the Scottish soldiers, in revenge for the mischief which the English had done in their country, committed great cruelties. Wallace did not approve (of) their killing the people who were¹ not in arms, and he endeavoured to protect the clergymen and others, who were not able to defend themselves. "Remain with me," he said to the priests of Hexham, a large town in Northumberland, "for I cannot protect you from my soldiers when you are out of my presence." The troops who followed Wallace received no pay, because he had no money to give them; and that was one great reason why he could not keep them under restraint, or prevent their doing much harm to the defenceless country people. He remained in England more than three weeks, and did a great deal of mischief to the country.

Indeed, it appears, that, though Wallace disapproved (of) slaying priests, women, and children, he partook of the ferocity of the times so much, as

¹ Vergl. pag. 4 Anm. 3.

203.12 to¹ put to death without quarter all whom he found in arms. In the north of Scotland, the English had placed a garrison in the strong castle of Dunnottar, which, built on a large and precipitous rock, overhangs the raging sea. Though the place is almost inaccessible, Wallace and his followers found their way into the castle, while the garrison in great terror fled into the church or chapel, which was built on the very verge of the precipice. This did not save them, for Wallace caused* the church to be set on fire. The terrified garrison, involved in the flames, ran some of them upon the points of the Scottish swords, while others threw themselves from the precipice into the sea, and swam along to the cliffs, where they hung like sea-fowl, screaming in vain for mercy and assistance.

204.19 The followers of Wallace were frightened at this dreadful scene, and falling on their knees before the priests who chanced* to be in the army, they asked forgiveness for having committed so much slaughter, within the limits of a church dedicated to the service of God. But Wallace had so deep a sense of the injuries which the English had done to his country, that he only laughed at the contrition of his soldiers — “I will absolve you all, myself,” he said. “Are you Scottish soldiers, and do you repent for a trifle like this, which is not half what the invaders deserved at our hands²?” So deep seated was Wallace’s feeling of national resentment, that it seems to have overcome, in such instances, the scruples of a temper which was naturally humane.

Edward I. was in Flanders when all these events took place. He was very angry when he learned that Scotland, which he thought completely subdued, had risen into a great insurrection against him, defeated his armies, killed his treasurer, chased his soldiers

¹ *as to* = so that he put &c.

² *at our hands* = from us.

out of their country, and invaded England with a great force. He came back from Flanders in a mighty rage, and determined not to leave that rebellious country until it was finally conquered; for which purpose he assembled a very fine army, and marched into Scotland.

In the mean time the Scots prepared to defend themselves, and chose Wallace to be Governor, or Protector of the kingdom, because they had no king at the time. He was now titled Sir* William Wallace, Protector, or Governor, of the Scottish nation. But although Wallace, as we have seen, was the best soldier and bravest man in Scotland, and therefore the most fit to be placed in command at this critical period, when the King of England was coming against them with such great forces, yet the nobles of Scotland envied him this important situation, because he was not a man born in high rank, or enjoying a large estate. So great was their jealousy of Sir William Wallace, that many of these great barons did not seem very willing to bring forward their forces, or fight against the English. This was base and mean conduct, and it was attended with great disasters to Scotland. Yet, notwithstanding this unwillingness of the great nobility to support him, Wallace assembled a large army; for the middling, but especially the lower classes, were very much attached to him. He marched boldly against the King of England, and met him near the town of Falkirk. Most of the Scottish army were on foot, because, as I already told you, in those days only the nobility and great men of Scotland fought on horseback. The English King, on the contrary, had a very large body of the finest cavalry in the world, Normans and English, all clothed in complete armour. He had also the celebrated archers of England.

The Scots had some good archers from the Forest of Ettrick, who fought under command of Sir John

103 19

Stewart of Bonkill; but they were not nearly* equal in number to the English. The greater part of the Scottish army were on foot, armed with long spears; they were placed thick and close together, and laid all their spears so close, point over point, that it seemed as difficult to break through them, as through the wall of a strong castle. When the two armies were drawn up facing each other, Wallace said to his soldiers, "I have brought you to the ring, let me see how you can dance;" meaning, I have brought you to the decisive field of battle, let me see how bravely you can fight.

The English made the attack. King Edward, though he saw the close ranks, and undaunted appearance, of the Scottish infantry, resolved nevertheless to try whether he could not ride them down with his fine cavalry. [22^d July 1298.] He therefore gave his horsemen orders to advance. They charged accordingly, at full gallop. It must have been a terrible thing to have seen¹ these fine horses riding as hard as they could against the long lances, which were held out by the Scots to keep them back; and a dreadful cry arose when they came against each other.

The first line of cavalry was commanded by the Earl Marshal of England², whose progress was checked by a morass. The second line of English horse was commanded by Antony Beck, the Bishop of Durham. He wheeled round the morass; but when he saw the deep and firm order of the Scots, his heart failed, and he proposed to Sir Ralph Basset of Drayton, who commanded under him, to halt till Edward himself brought up the reserve. "Go say your mass, bishop," answered Basset contemptuously, and advanced at full gallop with the second line. However, the Scots stood

¹ *to have seen* = to see.

² Earl Marshal of England: Titel des königlichen Oberceremonienmeisters.

their ground* with their long spears; many of the foremost of the English horses were thrown down, and the riders were killed as they lay rolling, unable to rise, owing* to the weight of their heavy armour. But the Scottish horse* did not come to the assistance of their¹ infantry, but on the contrary, fled away from the battle. It is supposed that this was owing* to the treachery or ill-will of the nobility, who were¹ jealous of Wallace. But it must be considered that the Scottish cavalry were¹ few in number; and that they had much worse arms, and weaker horses than their enemies. The English cavalry attempted again and again to disperse the deep and solid ranks in which Wallace had stationed his foot soldiers. But they were repeatedly beaten off with loss, nor could they make their way through that wood of spears, as it is called by one of the English historians. King Edward then commanded his archers to advance; and these approaching within arrow-shot of the Scottish ranks, poured on them such close and dreadful volleys of arrows, that it was impossible to sustain the discharge. It happened at the same time, that Sir John Steward was killed by a fall from his horse; and the archers of Ettrick Forest, whom he was bringing forward to oppose those of King Edward, were slain in great numbers around him. Their bodies were afterwards distinguished among the slain, as being the tallest and handsomest men of the army.

The Scottish spearmen being thus thrown into some degree of confusion, by the loss of those who were slain by the arrows of the English, the heavy cavalry of Edward again charged with more success than formerly, and broke through the ranks, which were already disordered. Sir John Grahame, Wallace's great friend and companion, was slain, with many other brave soldiers; and the Scots, having lost a

¹ Vergl. pag. 4 Anm. 3.

very great number of men, were at length obliged to take to flight.

This fatal battle was fought upon 22^d July, 1298. Sir John the Grahame lies buried in the churchyard of Falkirk. A tombstone was laid over him, which has been three times renewed since his death. The inscription bears, "That Sir John the Grahame, equally remarkable for wisdom and courage, and the faithful friend of Wallace, being slain in battle by the English, lies buried in this place." A large oak-tree in the adjoining forest was long shown as marking the spot where Wallace slept before the battle, or, as others said, in which he hid himself after the defeat.

After this fatal defeat of Falkirk, Sir William Wallace seems to have resigned his office of Governor of Scotland. Several nobles were named guardians in his place, and continued to make resistance to the English armies; and they gained some advantages, particularly near Roslin, where a body of Scots, defeated three armies, or detachments of English in one day.

Nevertheless, the King of England possessed so much wealth, and so many means of raising soldiers, that he sent army after army into the poor oppressed country of Scotland, and obliged all its nobles and great men, one after another, to submit themselves once more to his yoke. Sir William Wallace, alone, or with a very small band of followers, refused either to acknowledge the usurper Edward, or to lay down his arms. He continued to maintain himself among the woods and mountains of his native country for no less than seven years after his defeat at Falkirk. Many proclamations were sent out against him by the English, and a great reward was set upon his head; for Edward did not think[†] he could have any secure possession of his usurped kingdom of Scotland while Wallace lived. At length he was taken prisoner; and, shame it is to say, a Scotsman, called Sir John

Menteith, was the person by whom he was seized and delivered to the English. It is generally said that he was made prisoner at Robroyston, near Glasgow; and the tradition of the country bears, that the signal made for rushing upon him and taking him at unawares, was, when one of his pretended friends, who betrayed him, should turn a loaf, which was placed on the table, with its bottom or flat side uppermost.

Whether Sir John Menteith was actually the person by whom Wallace was betrayed, is not perfectly certain. He was, however, the individual by whom the patriot was made prisoner, and delivered up to the English, for which his name and his memory have been long loaded with disgrace.

Edward having thus obtained possession of the person whom he considered as the greatest obstacle to his complete conquest of Scotland, resolved to make Wallace an example to all Scottish patriots who should in future venture to oppose his ambitious projects. He caused this gallant defender of his country to be brought to trial in Westminster Hall¹, before the English judges, and produced him there, crowned, in mockery, with a green garland, because they said† he had been king of outlaws and robbers among the Scottish woods. Wallace was accused of having been a traitor to the English crown; to which he answered, "I could not be a traitor to Edward, for I was never his subject." He was then charged with having taken and burnt towns and castles, with having killed many men, and done much violence. He replied, with the same calm resolution, "that it was true† he had killed very many Englishmen, but it was because they had come to subdue and oppress his native country of Scotland; and far from repenting

¹ Westminster Hall: Sitz der höchsten englischen Gerichtshöfe.

what he had done, he declared[†] he was only sorry that he had not put to death many more of them.”

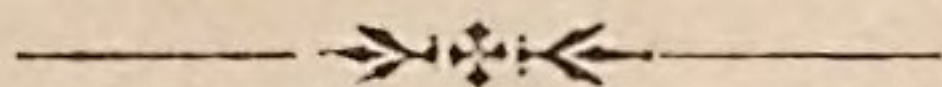
Notwithstanding that Wallace's defence was a good one, both in law and in common sense (for surely every one has not only a right to fight in defence of his native country, but is bound in duty to do so), the English judges condemned him to be executed. So this brave patriot was dragged upon a sledge to the place of execution, where his head was struck off, and his body divided into four quarters, which, according to the cruel custom of the time, were exposed upon spikes of iron on London Bridge¹, and were termed the limbs of a traitor. [23d August, 1305.]

No doubt King Edward thought, that by exercising this great severity towards so distinguished a patriot as Sir William Wallace, he should terrify all the Scots into obedience, and so be able in future to reign over their country without resistance. But Sir William Wallace, that immortal supporter of the independence of his country, was no sooner deprived of his life, in the cruel and unjust manner I have told you, than other patriots arose to assert the cause of Scottish liberty.

¹ London Bridge: Auf dieser Brücke, die bis zum Jahre 1740 die einzige Brücke über die Themse war und 1831 der derzeitigen London Bridge Platz machte, pflegte man in früheren Zeiten die Köpfe enthaupteter Verbrecher zur Schau auszustellen.

„Mich schrecken
Nicht Babingtons, nicht Tichburns blut'ge Häupter,
Auf Londons Brücke warnend aufgesteckt“

Schiller: Maria Stuart (I, 6).



Übersichtskarte
zu
SCOTT'S TALES
of a
GRANDFATHER.





Scott, Walter, / Bauer, Joh. / Link, Th.

Tales of a Grandfather zum Schul- und Privatgebrauch ; Text mit Karte ;
Questionnaire und Wörterverzeichnis

München 1890

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